

Clan Macpherson Association

(Australian Branch)

Website www.clan-macpherson.org



<u>April 2018 Newsletter</u>

Birthday Greetings to Cluny. On the occasion of his birthday on 1st April 2018, the following message was sent: "On behalf of your loyal clansmen and women in Australia, I offer you our hearty good wishes on the occasion of your birthday. We also wish you well for a prompt recovery from the aftermath of your recent fall in Newton Castle."

The latter was sent to acknowledge a message from CMA Vice Chairman Bill Macpherson on behalf of Cluny that said; 'I have been asked to convey a message from Cluny to you all, in an attempt to prevent Chinese whispers.

Cluny fell backwards down the stairs at Newton last week. As most of us are aware the stairs at Newton are very unyielding! Although by a miracle he was not seriously hurt he has just returned from a sojourn in Ninewells Hospital (Dundee). He would like to assure all that, although battered and bruised, he is fit but needs a rest. Please be assured that he is aware of our wish for a speedy return to full fitness, and we will help that by minimising contact over the next wee while.'

<u>The Clan Macpherson Gathering</u> - 3rd – 6th August 2018. You will find details of this year's Gathering in Creag Dhubh, (pp70-73) or on the CMA website <u>www.clan-macpherson.org/gathering</u>. Registrations can be made on the website or by copying and posting the form to Scotland. Bookings should be made promptly.

The Clan Chattan AGM and Dinner. On the Thursday evening preceding the Clan Macpherson Gathering, the Clan Chattan Association (CCA) holds it AGM and Annual dinner at the Lochardil Hotel in Inverness. The two events will be held on Thursday 2nd August. At 4.00pm light refreshments are served, at 5.00pm the AGM of the CCA is held, and at 7.00pm the Annual Dinner is served followed by light entertainment at 8.30pm. All members of the Clan Macpherson Association are welcome to attend. Bookings and payment, £30 per head can be made on the CCA website shop. Go to www.clan-chattan.org.uk. Applications sooner than later would be appreciated.

Visit to Australia by Shelagh Macpherson-Noble.

On her return to Scotland recently after a personal visit to Australia, former CMA Chairman Shelagh reported on her visit thus:

'When Alastair and I first came to Australia in 2010, I had recently become Chairman of the Clan Macpherson Association. John L Macpherson, the Association's Australian Representative, along with David McPherson in Melbourne, arranged for us to meet as many members as possible during our 6 week stay on the east coast. We were delighted with the response and friendship we received and said we would return one day.

In 2016 our son Euan was given a permanent residency in Australia and settled in Sydney, so in late 2017 we needed no excuse to book our tickets and head east for 10 weeks. Once again, the Macpherson network swung into action, coordinated by John and David in Melbourne. After spending Christmas & New Year with Euan, Alastair and I set off exploring for a few weeks. We received wonderful Clan hospitality from John L & Gwen in Bowral, Adam & Liz in Canberra, and David & Sally in Melbourne. On our second night in Melbourne, David organised a get together with Ian Macpherson, his son Andrew, and Lachlan Macpherson whom we had met at the Gathering in Scotland last August.

Another reason for our visit to Australia was the chance to research more information on Alexander McPherson, my great, grand uncle who left Newtonmore in Scotland to join the Australian gold rush. He joined the ill-fated Burke & Wills Expedition in 1860 as the saddler, and was one of the few survivors.

In Melbourne, David arranged for us to meet Chris Earl, a gentleman in Bendigo who is in charge of all things Scottish. Chris invited another few gents with Scottish connections to join us, along with a reporter and photographer from the local newspaper, the Bendigo Advertiser. The result was a short article in the paper which mentioned the CMA and Burke & Wills. This alerted a member of the Burke & Wills Society to our presence in Australia. Society member, David Dodds, arranged a meeting in Ballarat where I was presented with a book on the Burke & Wills Expedition, written by Dave Phoenix. Present at the meeting was Professor Ian Clark who is writing a book about what happened to the Expedition survivors and we exchanged information on Alexander. It is interesting to note that on 11th February 1861 Alexander had a letter published in the Bendigo Advertiser, giving details of the Expedition and almost 157 years later, his great, grand niece appeared in the same paper. My Macpherson link to Australia lives on with our son now resident in Sydney.

During the final week of our stay, John arranged for us to have lunch at the Bella Vista Cafe on North Head, overlooking the entrance to Sydney Harbour near Manly. Thirteen Macphersons enjoyed a meal and chat before heading out in the blustery wind to the former school of artillery observation platform for a group photo and interesting talk from John. Embedded in the nearby Memorial Walkway there are 12 pavers named after members of John's family starting with Lt Col Ewan Macpherson, who came to Australia in 1842, was involved in the First Maori War in 1845, and later settled near Timaru (New Zealand). The last brick belongs to John L himself, a member of a family with an illustrious military career.



The Clan Macpherson Association has a wonderful network throughout the world and Alastair and I have received tremendous hospitality wherever we travel, not only in countries where there are recognised branches, but also in Sweden and Maui in the Hawaiian Islands. We belong to a wonderful organisation where the word 'Clan' truly does mean family.'¹

Reproduced by courtesy of the Scottish Banner 'World Clan Leader in Bendigo' 'Former chairman of the world-wide Clan Macpherson Association, Shelagh Macpherson Noble, met with members of Bendigo's Scots Day Out team as strong diaspora bonds continue to grow between the city and Scotland. Mrs Macpherson Noble served as world chairman from 2009 to 2012 and is now an honorary vice-president of the association that is well represented at Scots Day Out each year in Rosalind Park. She met with the 2017 chieftain Neil Clark who presented the visiting clan leader with a scarf in the unique official Bendigo tartan. Former chieftains and the event director were also among those to meet with Mrs Macpherson Noble.

¹ Photo. A view from Bella Vista Café North Head overlooking the entrance to Sydney Harbour through which our ancestors arrived and departed occasionally to serve the nation.

Diaspora bonds. The Australian visit by Mrs Macpherson Noble and her husband Alistair included time in Victoria where she continued to research the role of an ancestor, Alexander Macpherson, one of the survivors of the ill-fated



Burke and Wills expedition. Mrs Macpherson Noble acknowledged the leadership of the clan's Victorian representative David McPherson who each year arranges the presence at Scots Day Out. During the meeting, there were discussions on the features of Scots Day Out and diaspora celebrations in Scotland.

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Overseas Travelers Take Note



If you happen to travel to the USA and Canada you will be welcomed at the USA and/or Canadian Branch AGMs. *The US Branch AGM and Gathering* will be held on 5th-7th October 2018 at the SHERATON PORTLAND AIRPORT HOTEL

8235 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97220.

Branch Chairman Bonnie Macpherson said: 'Welcome to Oregon for your US Clan Macpherson Association AGM. Portland Oregon is a great location in an area known as, a land of many faces. It is a state of rugged rocky coastlines and deep forests alongside its cities and small towns packed with restaurants and trendy shops with nearly half of its land covered by dense fir, redwood, and pine forests. In addition to pristine waterfalls, beaches, and lakes perfect for a holiday in nature, Oregon also offers numerous urban tourist attractions. Portland, the state's largest metropolis, is home to more breweries than any other city in the world, and its central location makes it an ideal base for day trips to Oregon's emerging wine region or a trip to the infamous 'Portland Underground' that focuses on the shanghai trade in the City of Portland that survived from 1850-1941.

² Photo; Shelagh Macpherson Noble embraces the Bendigo tartan with husband Alastair, and members of the Scots Day Out team.

Cars are undoubtedly king in the state, so renting a car is the best way to have unfettered flexibility and access to the top attractions. Oregon is well-served by freeways and highways, including Interstate 5 that runs north-south across the state through Portland and Highway 101 along the coast. Driving also saves on transport fares, which can quickly add up when traveling.

If you love waterfalls then Oregon has a lot of them, but the closest is just 25 miles east. Multnomah Falls is the most popular. Located on the Oregon side of the Columbia River Gorge, along the Historic Columbia River Highway, the falls drops 620 feet. Multnomah Falls is the tallest waterfall in Oregon and the second tallest year-round waterfall in the USA.

Another quick visit north of the airport where we will be staying is the West Coast's Fort Vancouver.

General Grant, later President Grant, lived here along with two other officers and some clerks, Grant lived in "Quartermaster's Ranch," an imposing, two-story home with high ceilings and a porch on three sides, prefabricated in New England and shipped via Cape Horn in sections. Some history many don't know is Grant did not actually live in the log structure called the "Grant House," which is now a museum at Fort Vancouver.

Go to: <u>https://www.clan-macpherson.org/us/index.html</u> for registration details.



The 2018 Canadian Branch Gathering will be held on September 28-30 in London Ontario. The Gathering will be held at the Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre, located near the University of Western Ontario. We look forward to the fellowship of our clan as we dance, sing, eat, drink

and learn during our annual Gathering. From the Doors Open welcome in London this weekend to the "Kirking of the Tartan" at New St. James the pipes will sound!

Go to: https://www.clan-macpherson.org/canada/index.html for details.

The Maclean Highland Gathering. Now in its 114th year, this northern NSW gathering, run in the town for many years local identity Bob Macpherson is famous for the telegraph poles painted in clan tartans (including the three Macpherson tartans). This year Bob was honoured by the Council of Pipe Bands Australia, (NSW Branch) who promoted a tune writing contest to honour the long and dedicated service of Mr Robert Macpherson - who has driven the organisation of the Maclean contest in Northern NSW for longer than he cares to remember! His hard work and enthusiasm have had a marked impact on the promotion of the pipe band movement in northern NSW.



Clan Macpherson - Out and About.

³From Bendigo, Victorian rep David J McPherson (Templestowe) reported: We (Sally and myself) marched down View Street carrying the Macpherson Banner with the other Clans on Saturday 3rd March 2018 where the street was lined 5-10 deep on either side with people waving flags, taking photos and appreciating the Bands

and parade. The program was well attended with an estimated 3-4,000 people. Most clans were represented in the march and hosted tents under the shady trees of Rosalind Park in central Bendigo. I have been going to Bendigo for 5 years now and conclude the number of Clans attending and Bands participating this year would have exceeded previous years. The weather was very pleasant although by 2 - 3.00 pm in the afternoon it was warming up a bit to 34 degrees. There were many interested visitors to our tent and a number of prospective members. Being a sole host at times I was trying to talk to and answer queries of three or four enquiries at the one time which did not allow time to concentrate on membership benefits. My wife Sally assisted, and new member Peter Shine from Ballarat stayed for a couple of hours in the afternoon. Many of the local people who came to our tent commented on the newspaper article in the local newspaper regarding the recent visit of Shelagh Macpherson Noble and Alistair to Bendigo and how pleased they were that she came and got some appreciation of their famous historical city. Chris Earl who is a strong supporter and main driver of the concept of the Scots Day Out, Pipe and Band Master and prominent citizen in Bendigo came to our tent to say hello and spoke of how pleased he was with Shelagh's visit.

All in all it was a very successful weekend and Macpherson Clan is becoming very well known and we should continue to promote our Clan in this City where there are a lot of Macphersons and cousins.

At **Geelong**, unfortunately, David's efforts to promote membership and fellowship within the CMA were 'blown away' on Sunday 18th March 2018 by gale force winds that caused the Gathering to be abandoned.

Later, a bad back laid David low so that our representation at the **Ringwood** Highland Gathering on 25th March was not possible.

³ Photo David McPherson (Templestowe, with new member Stuart Macpherson of Springdallah Vic)



Meanwhile in **Canberra** (ACT) on Sunday 18th February sisters Pam Rhemrev and Ailsa McPherson were on hand to assist a few visitors to the CMA tent during the Scottish segment of the Annual Multi Cultural Festival in Canberra which celebrates the breadth of nation now represented in the wider Australian community.

Outings in Melbourne and Sydney. You can find some photos of recent Clan Macpherson involvement in Scottish activities in Bendigo (Scots Day Out), Melbourne and North Fort (Shelagh's visit) on the Official Clan Macpherson Facebook page. <u>https://www.facebook.com/The-Official-Clan-Macpherson-Association-101140893306676/</u>

Has the real Bonnie Prince Charlie cave been found? JACOBITE ENTHUSIASTS BELIEVE THEY MAY HAVE FOUND THE TRUE LOCATION OF A MOUNTAIN HIDEAWAY USED BY BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE DURING HIS ESCAPE FROM SCOTLAND AFTER CULLODEN. READ MORE AT: HTTP://WWW.SCOTSMAN.COM/NEWS/HAS-THE...OUND-1-4467637

2018 Creag Dhubh. This year's copy carries an article by the Registrar on p26 titled 'Who Gets Creag Dhubh?' This arose after a discussion by the Association Council concerning the member entitlements of Associate members, a class that has been recently been retired. It has been the long term practice in Australia that one copy only has been sent to couples residing at the same address, and there is strong evidence that the practice should continue. With regard to electronic copies the matter is one of a number being considered by Council in an attempt to contain costs.

<u>The Skye Macphersons Calling Macphersons whose ancestry may originate</u> from the Isle of Skye. Please look at the following website where you will find considerable information regarding your possible family roots. <u>skyemacphersons.co.uk</u> Should you wish to enquire further you can make contact by filling in the feedback form at the bottom of the opening page of the website.

Personal Notes

New Members

We welcome new Annual members; Mr Stuart Macpherson, Springdallah Vic Ms Diane Macpherson, Bibra Lake WA

Vale

We extend our condolences to the family of; Mrs Leanne Macpherson, Waikiki WA

<u>Mail Returned to Sender</u> Mrs DM Vivash, Tarragindi Qld Mr RP Gillies, Naracoorte SA Mr EM Macpherson, Hawthorn SA

A Lone Pine in Bowral.

The ANZAC spirit will live on in the NSW Southern Highlands thanks to Lt Col John L Macpherson (Ret'd) and his wife Gwen who donated a Lone Pine to the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens (SHBG) on 9th March 2018. John L and his several cousins had four uncles serve in World War 1. The donated pine commemorates four brothers, two of whom were ANZACS and two who paid the supreme sacrifice.

On 6th August 1915 the 1st Australian Infantry Division launched a major offensive at Plateau 400 on Gallipoli. The ridges had been originally covered with the Aleppo pine, but having been cleared to provide cover for the Turkish trenches, one, solitary pine survived.

After the battle, Lance Corporal Benjamin Charles Smith, 3rd Battalion AIF, collected several pine cones from the branches used to cover the Turkish trenches. He sent the cones home to his mother, in remembrance of his brother who died during the battle.

From one of these cones several seeds were sown, and two seedlings successfully raised. One of the trees was planted in Inverell (NSW) where Benjamin and his brother had enlisted, and the other was planted at the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

In December 2008 the tree at the AWM incurred severe damage after a storm. However, it was saved, cuttings taken, and more seeds created.

The tree donated is a direct descendant from the Lone Pine on Gallipoli. It was propagated from the tree at the AWM.



Second Lieutenant Ewen Fergus Lord Macpherson enlisted on 29th August 1914. Lordie, as he was affectionately known, served on the Gallipoli Peninsula from the day of the landing until July 1915 when he was admitted to hospital, eventually in the UK. He was killed in action on 10th August 1916 while serving with 64th Battery, 5th Brigade, Lahore Artillery, Royal Artillery after artillery officer training at Swanage UK prior to being commissioned as a second lieutenant.

Second Lieutenant Jack Machattie Lord Macpherson was the sixth child of Ewen Fergus Macpherson and Genevieve Louisa Machattie, and the third of four brothers who served in the Great War. Jack enlisted on 4th April 1915 and served on the Gallipoli Peninsula in the area of Russell's Top and Fatigue Gully from 22nd August until December when the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force was withdrawn and returned to Egypt via Mudros then to the Western Front. Like his elder brother Lordie, Jack was commissioned in mid 1917 as a second lieutenant in 410th Battery, 96th Field Artillery Brigade, Royal Artillery. Jack was awarded the Military Cross for bravery near Merricourt on 22nd May 1918 and later received the French Croix de Guerre with Palm d'Or. He returned to Australian in mid 1919.

Sergeant Randolph George Lord Macpherson was the second oldest of the four boys to serve. He enlisted on 6th January 1916. Randolph served with 27th and 26th Batteries, 7th (Australian) Field Artillery Brigade, and temporarily with 16th Battery, Royal New Zealand Artillery and 2/1st Battery, East Lancashire Field

⁴ Photo: L to R Gwen Macpherson, Heather Smallbone (nee Macpherson), John L, Tina Macpherson, Morgan Smallbone, Marcia Macpherson, Margie Stewart, Jeff Macpherson, Jack Smallbone, Margaret Bennet (nee Macpherson), Stewart Macpherson holding William Macpherson.

Artillery. Randolph returned to Australia on 15th August 1919.

Private Lachlan Charles Lord Macpherson was the youngest of the brothers to enlist. He enlisted on 11th July 1917 (aged 18) when he was a bank clerk in Wollongong (NSW). After training in the UK he joined the18th Battalion as a reinforcement on18th May. He was killed in action on 29th August 1918 during the lead up to the Battle for Mont St Quentin/Peronne.

In speaking to the Bowral press, John L said it was very special for he, and his numerous cousins and their families, to have a Lone Pine planted at the botanic gardens. 'We are all very pleased to donate this tree to the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens.'

SHBG Chairman Mrs. Charlotte Webb said the tree would become an important feature of the gardens. The Lone Pine is one of the first trees in really, what will become an area of remembrance. Charlotte continued, "I think it really is a significant introduction to the gardens and it's lovely coming from such an important family as the Macphersons."

Activities across the Country

3rd – 6th May Australian Celtic Festival, Glen Innes, info https://www.australiancelticfestival.com/event

26th May Berry Celtic Festival, Berry, NSW. Pipe bands, Celtic Clans, Scottish Terrier dogs, vintage cars and more at Berry Showground. Info: <u>www.berryrotary.org.au/celtic-festival</u>

26th May Queensland Highland Pipers Society Patrons Trophy, Wynnum , QLD. At Wynnum RSL, Tingal Rd. Info: 07 3397 4512 or <u>www.qhps.org</u>

26th May Inglewood, WA. Scottish dancing and social event at Bob Daniels Community Centre, 891 Beafort St. Info: John 0427 990 754.

27th May – 3rd June, Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival, Wingham, NSW. Scottish singing, dancing, Highland games, genealogy fair and a traditional Scottish Ball. The Clan of Honour this year is Clan Cameron. Info: www.manninghistorical.org

8th -11th June National Celtic Festival, Portarlington, VIC. A long weekend of Celtic music, relax and experience the depth of Celtic culture through the festival's cultural diverse arts program. Info: <u>www.nationalcelticfestival.com</u>

10th June Highland Cattle Show Junee NSW. Highland cattle and Highland dancers, Clan tents and more. Info: <u>www.australianhighlandcattle.org</u>

10th June Ipswich Highland Gathering of the Clans, Ipswich QLD. Scottish stalls, pipe band, solo and drumming competitions at Bill Paterson Oval, Limestone Park. Info: 0411 892 810 or <u>www.ipswichthistle.com</u>

17th June Townsville Tartan Day, Townsville, QLD. In the Cotters Market, Flinders Street with street parade of Clan Banners and bagpipes. Info: Marie Gibson <u>mlg7@optusnet.com.au</u> or 0413 456 542.

29th June – 7th July Scottish Week in Sydney and surrounds. Includes:

29th June Welcome at Castlereagh Hotel, Sydney

30th June Burns Supper at Castlereagh Hotel, Sydney

 $\mathbf{1}^{st}$ July Kirkin' o the Tartan, Hunter Baillie Church Annandale and Clans Forum

2nd July Visit Joadja Village, near Mittagong

3rd July Inspection of the Scotland Australia Cairn, Mosman (tbc)

4th July Parliamentary Luncheon @ Parliament House

6th July Hosted luncheon at the 18-Footer Sailing Club, Double Bay 7th July Aberdeen Highland Games. <u>http://www.aberdeenhighlandgames.com/</u> Info: Susan Cooke 0411 097 724 or <u>info@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au</u>

To be advised Scotland in the Park, new location pending QLD. A full day of Scottish events including pipe bands, entertainment, Scottish stalls and more at Middle Green Sports Complex, 720 Middle Rd. **Clan Macpherson Tent** Info: Neil Macdonald 0412 090 990 or <u>www.scottishclans.org.au</u>

7th **July Aberdeen Highland Games, Aberdeen, NSW**. Fun for all the family with Clans, Highland and country dancing, pipe bands, Tartan Warriors, Kilted Dash and more. Jefferson Park. Info: 02 6540 1300 or <u>www.aberdeenhighlandgames.com</u>

7th July International Tartan Day Ball, Fremantle, WA. Presented by The Scottish Masonic Charitable Foundation of WA Inc. Enjoy some Scottish traditions, with Heel 'n' Toe band, Perth Metro Pipe band, and an Address to the Haggis, raffles and prizes to be won at the Esplanade Hotel.

Info: Peta McLean 0433 707 716 or <u>www.smcfwa.com.au</u>

15th July Townsville Celtic Festival. QLD Celebrating the cultural diversity of the seven Celtic nations of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Isle of Man, Brittany and Galicia at Jezzine Barracks.
Info: <u>www.townsvillecelticfestival.org.au</u>

21st July Annual Tartan Day, Brisbane, QLD. At King George Square with Scottish entertainment, stalls, pipe bands. A free event presented by the Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Info: Ian Campbell 07 3359 8195 or <u>www.aussie-scots.org.au</u>

27th – **30**th July, International Highland Dancing Festival of Australia, Gosford NSW. A spectacular 4 day event on the NSW Central Coast. Champion Challenges, Pre-Champs, 10 age Championships. Info: 0437 677 166 or www.cchdi.org.au.

11th August Winter Ball, Hobart, TAS. A night of Scottish country dancing and musicians at Hobart Town Hall, Macquarie St. Info: 03 6231 6585 or <u>ord.sally@gmail.com</u>

12th August Richmond Picnic, TAS. A day of food, fun and dance at Richmond Village Green. Scottish fiddle and piano. Info: 03 6231 6585 or <u>ord.sally@gmail.com</u>

16th – 19th August, Scots in the Bush, Boondooma, QLD. Celebrating the contribution of the Scottish people in opening up much of Australia at Boondooma Homestead.
 Info: 07 4168 0159 or www.boondoomahomestead.org.au

9th September Highland Gathering and Kilt Run, Armadale, WA. WA's largest Scottish event which features pipe bands, Scottish dancers, Clans, stalls and the Perth Kilt Run, a free community event at Minnawarra Park presented by the City of Armadale.

Info: 08 9394 5000, www.armadale.wa.gov.au or www.perthkiltrun.com.au

15th September Clans on the Coast, Nelson Bay, NSW. Scottish pipe bands, Celtic band, Celtic stalls, caber toss, Celtic dancers & Choir and more at Tomaree Sports Complex, No. 1 Oval. Info: Ron Swan on 0418 495 336 or <u>www.clansonthecoast.com</u>

7th October Canberra Burns Club Highland Gathering, Kambah ACT. Clan Macpherson Tent

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