



# Clan Munro Australia

Newsletter of the Clan Munro (Association) Australia

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### Next Newsletter

We will have the biography of Trent Munro the Champion Australian surfer.

We will also have the story of Hugh Robert Munro the youngest child of Donald Munro & Margaret McPherson who arrived in Sydney from Glasgow on 6 September 1848 on the "John Grey" with the first 4 of their 10 children. This is another of the "Munros' Luck" families and another of our most important and successful pioneering families.

A Munro connection to the Sydney Opera House

The connection that two of our members have to the Nevil Shute novel "A Town Like Alice"

There will be a report on the Bundadood Highland Gathering and the Kirking of the Tartan in Perth.

And, with any luck, there might even be more!

Don

The "Munro Bond" and network really do exist. I have experienced it many times since taking on the very rewarding task of the Clan's representative in Australia. My first experience was when we held our Gathering in Sydney - everyone was so friendly that you would think we had known each other for ever.

Again, those members who have visited us in Perth were more like relatives or old friends popping in rather than people with whom we had only corresponded. In the April newsletter I told of the reception we had when on holiday in New Zealand and now it has happened again. I printed the address of Bob Munro's website in the April Newsletter and Bob offered to host our new website free of charge. I found a web designer in Russell Munro in Perth the son of one of our members who agreed to design the site for us. Unfortunately, just as we were about to start, Russell had to have an operation to his arm which put him out of action for a few weeks. Once again Bob came to the rescue and set the site up for us and was so patient with the changes I made till it looks as good as it now does. I cannot thank Bob enough for what he has done for us.

Don Munro from Queensland suggested that we try and feature more Munros and other Scots who are **still alive** in our newsletter. To this end I contacted the Munro family who breed Weebollabolla shorthorns and they are featured in this newsletter. Don is now searching for other likely Scots to use.

We have had two more successes in our genealogy section. In Newsletter No 16, Barbara Stirling from New Zealand told of Roderick Munro who came to Australia in 1848 on the 'Emperor.' In May, I had an email from David Wood from Canada who had seen Barbara's letter & wrote "*I have just returned from a trip to the Highlands where we found the remains of the croft that Roderick's father built. Roderick Munro was my great-great-great uncle and he married Barbara's great-great-great aunt, if my calculations are correct.*" Barbara & David are now in contact & sharing family information. Just as well David emailed as Barbara did not get in touch to let us know if she is happy with the connection but that is the way the world works.

Then in June I had an email from Germany from Leslie Munro Eickert to say that she had read Lizzi Bell's story of Darby Munro in Newsletter No 5 & she wanted to get in touch with Lizzi and thank her for the story. She said "*By the way I am Darby's daughter Lesley. Am living here in Eastern Germany with my German husband and just loving it! The ties between here and Scotland are strong believe it or not. In so many small villages around here they perform their mini Highland games. Even had the Munro Lament played one day for me. No I did not cry but came very close to it.*"

So there you have it, our genealogy section is doing good and serving its purpose of uniting Munros the world over & the internet has made this possible.

Sad news also to report in that two of our stalwarts have passed away. I have reported that in the main body of the newsletter

## Welcome To Our New Members

Welcome to our two new member, Craig Ewens Carter & Malcolm Munro, both from WA. Craig Ewens is descended from the Rev Robert Munro RD born 1846 in Larbert, Stirling, minister of the UP Church in Kincardine and Mary MacKay. Malcolm Munro was born in Edinburgh & emigrated to WA in 1965. His father was born in Collington, Midlothian, his Grandfather on the Isle of Lewis, his Great Grandfather on the Isle of Skye & his Gr. Gr. Grandfather (*Donald*) was born in Cromarty around 1796 (Another Skye Munro!)

## Weebollabolla Shorthorns



This is another of the “Munro’s Luck” families and they have generously allowed me use their family history from the company’s excellent website at [www.weebollabolla.com.au/](http://www.weebollabolla.com.au/)

The Weebollabolla shorthorns are bred by the Munro family whose Norland Pastoral Pty Ltd properties are spread over 360km situated in the North West of NSW running through to Goondiwindi in Southern Queensland and until 2001 the Northern Territory. The Head Office is at “Weebollabolla” Moree.

On the left you see the Munro family of Weebollabolla - Judy, Jacquelin, Jennifer, Sandy, Catriona and Kirsten. It was once said before a bull sale if Sandy "bred his bulls as consistently as his daughters then that would be an exceptional achievement."

Mr Alexander Forbes Munro (Sandy) ran the company with his father Wallace Forbes Munro (Wally) as the AGF Munro Partnership until his father’s death and now runs the company as the Norland Pastoral Pty Ltd & this is what he says about the company.

“Weebollabolla has maintained a long association with the Shorthorn Breed both in Australia and internationally, dating back to the 1830s. I am privileged to be involved with our family owned and operated business and very proud that my daughter Jennifer has made the decision to become the fifth generation employed by the company, Norland Pastoral (AGF Munro Partnership prior to my father Wallace Munro’s death).

Our objective is to produce easy care cattle that are structurally correct and have good carcass attributes off grass or grain depending on the season. To achieve this objective we have placed emphasis on increased muscling, earlier growth rates, bloat resistance, less eye cancers without jeopardizing skeletal frame, marbling and the maternal characteristics that built our herd fertility, milk and temperament.

Our genetic base has endured over 130 years of intense human and natural selection through market demands (not trends) and environmental pressures from within all States. Of historical note, Weebollabolla became highly recognized and a respected name due to my Grandfather R.F Munro defying the 1930s market trend to breed cattle with smaller frames and less bone. Today Shorthorns have a major role to play in developing future cross breeding programs to promote both maternal traits and better meat quality in other breeds.

We at Weebollabolla look forward to future challenges within our industry and also those from other sectors, such as pork, chicken and pasta.”



*What follows is the history of one of our pioneering Munro families whose success continues to the present day.*

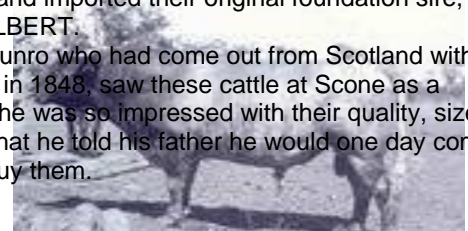


The original cows of the parent Stud, *Weebollabolla*, were purchased by Messrs Hall Bros. of Dartbrook, Scone from John Lee of Bylong, N.S.W. in 1848. The Lee cattle were imported from England early in the

1830's and during the next 20 years they imported many bulls from England, amongst them being the noted sire NAPOLEON bred by Queen Victoria at the Windsor Stud Farm. Hall Bros. were descendants of Thomas Hall, noted breeder of Shorthorn cattle in England and owner of the famous cow TRIPES, who

was the mother of the PRINCESS family, the first recorded female line in the Coates Herd Book. The Hall Bros. purchased their first cows in Australia from the Lee family and imported their original foundation sire, PRINCE ALBERT.

A.G.F. Munro who had come out from Scotland with his parents in 1848, saw these cattle at Scone as a youth, and he was so impressed with their quality, size and scale that he told his father he would one day come back and buy them.



Sire purchased for Yetman Station by the Dight Family in 1909. The Dight Family are still buying Weebollabolla sires

In the 1868 drought in the Hunter Valley, the Hall Bros. had to move their cattle up to their newly acquired property in the Moree district, *Weebollabolla*. In 1873, A.G.F. Munro went to Sydney and purchased *Weebollabolla* at public auction, with the 500 breeding cows given in.

At this time *Weebollabolla* was carrying a large flock of sheep and as the cattle bred, A.G.F. Munro gradually reduced his sheep numbers and changed over to cattle.

He was then in partnership with his brother W.R. Munro whom he later bought out and in 1902 he formed a stock partnership with his family and carried on the overall management until his death in 1929.

In 1902 a branch stud was formed at *Goodar*, Goondiwindi. Over the years A.G.F. Munro purchased many high priced bulls for his herd and in 1901 imported BOVRIL and later GRAND DUKE of RUDDINGTON from Mr Mills of Ruddington Hall, Nottingham, England. KING JUBILANT was imported in 1908 and in 1909 LORD WESTON (imp.) was purchased from Victoria, he being the Grand Champion at the Melbourne Royal that year. The *Weebollabolla* cattle were shown very successfully in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. They won many prizes including the Champion Bull in Sydney with CHARMER in 1894.

A.G.F. Munro was an exceptionally practical man and he evolved in his mind the type of beast that was most suitable for Australian conditions and the beast that would give the maximum financial profit to the breeder. He liked a beast with natural high carriage of the head, neatly laid in shoulders to allow it to walk freely over long distances, great length between pins and hips to form a platform to pack on the dear cuts of meat and pin bones widely set apart to prevent calving problems. He realised that the amount of muscle on the beast is approximately in proportion to the size of the bone within its frame and that big boned beasts would yield more meat to sell.

This carefully thought out and standardised pattern for *Weebollabolla* cattle was continued by Mr R.F. Munro when he took over the classing from his father.

He added a softer hair to the herd and improved the colours and realised that good Shorthorn cattle were never more than a few generations from White.

In 1934 the new trends in beef cattle breeding throughout the world were leaning towards the small compact beast with small bones that would mature quickly and in theory would yield a small roast of beef more suitable to the housewife's needs.

At the Sydney Showground in 1934 the conversation amongst the cattle breeders on Judging Day was all enthusiasm for the new compact beast that was fetching high prices in the Argentine and was being known as Scotch Shorthorns.

The general opinion at the time amongst the breeders of Shorthorn cattle was to deliberately breed cattle with smaller bones. Mr R.F. Munro stated at the close of the Judging Day that he would continue to breed cattle of the old type because any experienced breeder should know that:-

1. It is a continual battle when breeding cattle to keep size in any herd.

2. If you deliberately bred small cattle they will continue to get smaller.

3. Once you get your herd small it takes a long time to make it big again.

4. If you sell fat cattle by the kg weight, why not breed a heavy beast to sell:

Mr R.F. Munro was a genius at selecting sires that would reproduce the kind of beast he wanted and was always consistent and unswerving in his efforts to breed cattle to the pattern set by his father.

*A.G.F. Munro was an exceptionally practical man.....*

Mr Charles Munro retired from the Stock Partnership before the death of his father in 1929 and when he

was taking his share of the cattle he took some of the polled cows that were being bred among the Shorthorn cattle at *Goodar*. He later became a foundation member of the Polled Shorthorn Society along with his son Alex, brother Donald Munro and cousin Douglas Munro.

When the Polled Shorthorn Society was formed Mr R.F. Munro selected the best of these polled cows from his herd and founded a Polled Shorthorn Stud at *Boonal*, Boggabilla. He did not join the Society when it was first formed, however, he did run his polled Stud separately from the horned cattle right through until the time when the Poll Shorthorn Society inspected the herd and accepted 100 females into the new Appendix System.

In 1962 on the death of his father, Wallace Forbes



Munro (Wally) was appointed manager of the family business. He had grown up in the era of small compact cattle in the show rings throughout Australia, but fortunately he had been with his father on the Showground in Sydney in 1934 and remembered the reasons why his father had not wanted to change the *Weebollabolla* type.

With the hard facts of net returns and practicability of the cattle of this type, his only wish was to continue to breed cattle to the family pattern set down by his father and grandfather before him. A.G.F. Munro Partnership cattle have been classed to the same pattern for 100 years of selection to a planned type.

The Studs at *Goodar*, Queensland and *Weebollabolla*, N.S.W. have for many years had a vast influence on the Shorthorn herds of Queensland and the Northern Territory. A conservative estimate would be that well over 18,000 bulls have been sold from these two Studs since their inception - 415 being the biggest individual draft, sold to Alexandria Downs, N.T. The greatest number of bulls sold in one year was 603 in 1974.

Bulls have been sold to clients from the Gulf of

Carpentaria to the Western Districts of Victoria, from Grafton on the East Coast to Geraldton on the West Coast of W.A. and Esperance on the South West of W.A. and 200 to Moolboola, inland from Wyndham, W.A. Individual bulls have been sold to the Solomon

Islands, Norfolk Islands, Canada, South Africa and the United Kingdom. This is proof of the versatility of the old English Shorthorn and that they will do equally well in a large range of climates.

## Windfarms

*Love them or hate them, windfarms are here to stay so why not turn them to your advantage. Just to keep me on my toes while on holiday earlier this year, Don Munro from Queensland sent me this précis of a newspaper article that he had just read*

What he said was "Although I know you are over in NZ at the moment, I thought this very interesting story in today's Scotsman would be of interest to you. I believe the village of Fintry obviously has some clever people living there, who had the foresight to develop their thoughts in terms of windfarms. Their thinking was not just to agree to the Renewables companies proposals and grant them permission to install the wind turbines. They obviously thought this out very carefully along the lines of – "what is there in this for us too?" They came up with the idea, " Ok, we will in principle grant you permission without any fight from us to install these 14 wind turbines in the hills of Stirlingshire around Fintry, but you are going to install a 15th wind turbine for us, so we the community can benefit by having our own "free" electricity supply for the village. These things cost at present prices around £2.5 million so obviously a village of 500 souls could not raise that sort of money, but they, the community leaders, took it a step further, and said " Renewables, you are going to provide the wind generator for us, and we will pay it back from the money you are going to have to pay us for the other 14 wind generators - they accepted and the Fintry Development Trust was formed.

This is how it works. The cost of buying and installing a wind turbine might seem daunting to many. At about £2.5 million, it will take Fintry 15 years to pay off. But even during that time the Fintry Development Trust expects to receive between £50,000 and £70,000 a year from their turbine on the nearby Earlsburn wind farm. The electricity it produces will go into the National Grid to be bought by power companies, as will the power from the 14 other turbines on the site. The total generating capacity of the wind farm is 37.5 megawatts, enough to power about 25,000 homes, equal to half of all the houses in the Stirling Council area.

"Fintry's turbine, which has a capacity of 2.5 megawatts, should generate enough for more than 1,600 houses, several times the number in the village. But after the repayment period is over, the village will receive what should be a life-changing amount of money. It would get about £400,000 a year at today's prices

"Fintry Development Trust, a charity, was set up to decide how to spend the money and it has about 150 members. A trading company, Fintry Renewable Energy Enterprise (Free), was also created and it will pay all its profits to the charitable trust. The trust's aim is to "promote the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the community to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and the effects of global warming". For example, expensive oil-fired heating systems could be replaced with solar panels, micro-turbines and/or ground source heat pumps. It could also be used to insulate homes or fit double glazing. The trust's committee is considering what the money will be spent on and options will be put to its members no later than October.

"I think Fintry has set a wonderful template for communities right across Scotland in their future dealings with Renewable energy companies. Maybe they could extend this style of thinking to the Beaulieu - Denny Pylon link. How practical it might be to say "If you want your pylons on community land you are going to pay a price for this. I cannot fathom out why Scotland in particular does not make much greater use this type of energy - you do not have to dig down far to tap the source, just a few metres into the ground for the foundations."

## George Munro From Oldshoremore

*In our last newsletter I told of the meeting I had with George & Ann Munro in Timaru in New Zealand and I have referred to the "Munro Bond" on page 1. Ann sent me the following story of George's Grandfather & grandmother and is typical of so many of our ancestors who made the break from "the old country" and journeyed to, in this case to New Zealand but also to America (North & South), Australia, Canada, South Africa and to quite a number of other countries.*

Oldshoremore, a small fishing village on the far North-west coast of Scotland, 2 miles North West of Kinlochbervie was the birth place of George Munro, the youngest son of James Munro and Williamina (Corbett). Many births in those early days took place with the help of a midwife, or the family when the midwife did not arrive in time. The Doctor, if required, travelled about 9 miles from Scourie by boat after someone had travelled over 15 miles on horseback to inform him.

George was very young when his family moved to Achlyness, a small crofter village on the south

side of Loch Inchard, where his father James had a one acre croft. In the corrugated iron school building, George attended school along with his future wife Agnes Fraser whose family also lived at Achlyness. In the 1881 census his occupation was a fisherman at aged 16. Prior to enlisting in the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) on 17th Dec 1894 at the age of 19 years and 9 months, George was a draper, a dealer in fabrics and sewing materials.



At 5' 9" in stature, George had brown hair, a fair complexion and blue eyes; on the back of his left hand was the distinctive mark of an anchor and a he had a congenital mark at the back of his neck, on the left side He spent 7½ years in the Army, including 4 years in India (Dec 1896 to Dec 1901), and served in South Africa (Boer War Campaign) from December 1901 to June 1902. The Black Watch Museum, in Perth records his service thus; 1893 January - Sitapur and Benares; 1896 February – Ambula; 1895 April - Sv bathv, Det at Jutogh; 1901 February - Kamptee; 1901 December - South Africa; 1902 October - Edinburgh

George was awarded the Queen's South African Medal which in 1901 was presented to all troops who served in South Africa between 1st January 1901 and 31st May 1902, it is now owned by a grandson, Alex Laing.

He gained a reputation in the regiment as a piper and during his time in South Africa, George had his Henderson bagpipes silver mounted. He continued with the Black Watch Reserve being discharged on 16 December 1906 after completing 12 years in both Army and Reserve. Whilst with the Reserve he joined the Leith Police Force, Edinburgh in mid 1902 where he was a constable at the Leith Police Station, Queen Charlotte St, near 41 James Street, where George was residing.

At this time Agnes Fraser went down to Edinburgh and worked as a domestic servant for Mrs Hare at 14 Eglinton Crescent. George and Agnes were married in Leith, on 10 June 1903. Their four children - Mina, Janet (Net) Thomas (Tom) and Jemima (Mimie) were born in Leith. There were many tenement buildings in Edinburgh at that time in the Halmyre Street building where the Munros lived, there were 16 tenements. A front door at the pavement edge opened into a passage led through to a backyard, an internal staircase led up to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors, each floor containing four tenements.

The family decided to emigrate to New Zealand and on 25th November 1910 George sailed on the 'RUAHINE' with Mr Wm Robertson, also a Police Constable. George became a Constable at the Mount Cook

Police Station, Wellington (near the Basin Reserve). Agnes and the four young children went up to Achlyness to live with her parents, Thomas and Janet Fraser. With the other grandparents James and Mina Munro, living just further along the road this would be a very special time for the family.

Agnes and the four children travelled to Wellington on the New Zealand Shipping Company ship 'Rotorua', departing from London 23rd October 1910. Constable Robertson's wife and three young daughters were onboard too, so the two young wives and their families enjoying each others company on the six week sea voyage.



George Munro in South Africa



The Munro family resided in Wellington at Buckle Street only a short time before George was transferred to the Dunedin North Police Station and some years later to the Roslyn Police Station. George & Agnes other two children Georgina (Georgie) and Iain were born in Dunedin. George later became Arms Officer at the Dunedin Central Police Station and he retired from the Police Force in July 1935. A report of his farewell reads as:- "Constable George Munro, arms officer at Dunedin, who retired at the end of last month after 25 years serving in the Police Force, was met by members of the local station and presented with a wallet and notes. The presentation was made by senior sergeant Parker and Constable Meikle-john, who referred to Constable Munro's long record in the force and to the happy associations that had existed between him and his colleagues." Returning thanks for the gift, Constable Munro referred to the pleasant time he had spent in the force, and to the consideration he had at all times received from his superior and fellow officers. George said that during his service with the police in Scotland and New Zealand he had felt the benefit of his military career.

The family moved a number of times before settling in Kaikorai where they remained until 1936. His daughter, Georgie, spoke of him being on duty one night during the depression in the early 30's when people were throwing rocks through the windows of Dunedin's largest grocery and food store, Wardell's, in George St.



George was a noted performer on the bagpipes and in his youth was a successful competitor in Scottish national competitions. His Henderson bagpipes were mounted with silver in South Africa for twenty seven pounds, this amount has come down through the generations. The Lawrie chanter ferrule is engraved silver and may have been a piping prize. His son Thomas and grandson George both played the same bagpipes with success. George won the New Zealand Piping Championship in Dunedin in 1911 and in Hokitika the following year. George and his elder son Tom competed in various competitions winning many championships. After George withdrew from active competition his services were in great demand as a judge,

George Munro was a foundation member of the Dunedin Scottish Society being elected Chieftain in 1928. He was the Official Piper of the Society for many years and the only President up to that time, holding the office at the time of his death. The Scottish Society of Dunedin (Inc.) Special Minute of a motion passed at Committee Meeting held in Mr W A Steele's Rooms, Cnr of St Andrew and King St's Dunedin on the evening of July 7th, 1932 reads "That in consideration of the services rendered to the Scottish Society of Dunedin Incorporated, by Mr George Munro, the first President, ably assisted by Mrs Munro and Family, the said society to hereby place on record in tangible form such services **and adopt the Munro Tartan as the Badge of the aforesaid Society.** Whenever the Tartan is available Rosettes will be made for the Office Bearers and as the years roll on, this mark of esteem will be a living Monument to the memory of Mr Munro." Moved by Colin McKenzie, seconded by Peter Duff

and carried unanimously. This motion was presented framed to Mr G Munro and is now owned by his grandson, Iain Fletcher.

Murray Matheson, a brother of George's son-in-law Percy Matheson was taught the bagpipes by George Munro. As a result the Munro family and the Matheson family from the Taieri, became very close friends with George's eldest daughter Mina marrying Percy.

George died in 1936 and from the number of people who attended the funeral, it was evident that he was held in high esteem by all sections of the community. A total of about 150 cars followed the cortege. The service at his home in 5 Hood Street, Kaikorai, was conducted by the Rev J.D. Smith. The pall bearers were members of the City Police Force. Pipers William Matheson and Norman McPherson led the cortege to the main street

playing 'Lord Lovat's Lament.' The service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev J.D. Smith. Mr White, a former member of the Black Watch Regiment, dropped a Red Hackle on the casket, after which Mr John McDonald, patron of Scottish Society, of which Mr Munro was its first and only president, dropped a sprig of heather and he was followed in turn by each member of the Scottish Society's executive. The following societies were represented:- The Scottish Society of Dunedin, The Gaelic Society of New Zealand, the Caledonian Society of Otago, the Dunedin Burns Club, the Piping and Dancing Association, the St Andrew's Society of Otago, the late Irish Society, Imperial Ex-Servicemen's Association, Council of Dunedin Scottish Societies, Berwick Caledonian Society, Masonic brethren, and members and ex-members of the Dunedin Highland Pipe Band.

George and Agnes Munro are buried in Anderson's Bay Cemetery, Dunedin.

## Flooding in Mackay

*I received an email recently from Daphne Grinberg & in it there was a vague reference to a flood, concrete floors and walls. I wrote back & asked her what this was all about and this was the reply I received. Unless we experience such a disaster, we just do not realise what flood victims go through. This would have been well reported in Queensland but the rest of us need to know.*

Daphne wrote "As to our flood - it was caused by a series of freak events. On Tuesday 12th February we had a low depression area travelling from the north, which gave us lots of rain before it went on its merry way further south; then on the Thursday a second low area followed it and stopped here and gave us some more rain. In the meantime, the first depression turned around a headed north again, the two met over Mackay and stayed here, and the rest, as they say, is history. I live about 5 minutes walk from the sea, and we always have the most rain. We had 1,034 mm in the 24 hours between about 3am Friday and 3am Saturday. Mackay is one of the lowest cities in Australia - basically, we sit on the water table, so if the river comes up we flood. Add to that the water falling from above, and we were in trouble. My home was flooded, though I have been fortunate in not losing too much. All the carpets will have to be replaced, and some doors that were damaged, but with water flooding in through four entrances there wasn't much I could do except to lift the lighter bits and pieces up as high as I could before I was taken out through waist-deep water at 9am on the Saturday. I live in a block of 3 units, and our kind neighbour took us in, only to find the next day that his high Queenslander house had sunk 2 ft into the sandy soil. It's now jacked up with wooden beams and metal jacks until the civil engineers can get to it. They will save it, but it will be a big job. Over on the western side of the city, although they didn't get as much rain as we did (about 600mm), a whole estate of houses was lost - built on the river-bank, about 300 houses gone. All in all about 3,000 families have been affected. I may yet have to move out for a week or two as the civil engineers say the concrete floor is still full of water and they will have to bring in extractors to dry it out, and may have to remove parts of some of the internal walls to make sure everything is dried out properly. Whether or not they will need to take up the tile and vinyl flooring I don't know. They are concentrating on the worst-affected families first, so I think it will be some time before they get back to us who at least have a home to live in, albeit on cold concrete floors. The whole problem is exacerbated by the fact that there is simply no rental accommodation available in Mackay. The high prices of homes, affected by the mining industry here, makes it impossible for ordinary people (i.e. those not working in the mining industry) to afford housing. But life goes on..."

***Then there is the other side of the story and, with all the bad press that Centrelink gets, it is good to hear them come out so well in this case.***

"The government has set up a local body to supervise the clean-up and renovations, and their target is to have everyone re-housed by Christmas. I think that's pushing it a bit, but at least they have something to work towards. Manpower is one of many problems - we had a new family at Church three weeks ago - the husband and son are tradesmen, and they have come over from Brazil for a few months' work. I believe electricians and builders are particularly needed.

We have been very fortunate in that members of my church from further south collected goods and money and sent up two container loads of items. With the money collected they went into Bunnings and bought up multiples of washing machines, fridges, furniture and electrical goods, also sent hundreds of personal care kits and cleaning supplies, towels and bed linen, boxes and boxes of clothing, and anything else they could think of that would be useful. Each member here was asked to find two families who were in need, and my two neighbours both received some help - the family in unit 1, with a small baby, needed a sofa, a bed, a washing machine, linen and clothing, and it was wonderful to see that their needs could be met. These kinds of disasters do bring out the best in people, don't they?

The Centrelink recovery centres have also been a wonderful resource. Everyone affected was given a straight-off \$1,000, plus extra money for immediate replacement items like bed linen, and there is more money available from various sources for those who need it and have no insurance. It was all arranged very quickly and efficiently, and we are grateful for that. As well as manning the centres, their staff checked on those who had applied for help (they came to me four times) to make sure they were all right before the centres closed down. Now it is a matter of just being patient and getting on with life until everything is back to normal.

## Combined Clans' Picnic - Perth

The annual Perth combined Clan's picnic on a beautiful autumn day, 18<sup>th</sup> May in Kings Park was well attended and there was a lot of interest from members of the public who came to join us. One highlight of the day was the magnificent piping of the two Clan McLean pipers and another was that we gained two new members in Craig Carter & Malcolm Munro.

## Valz Hazel Munro

*Many of our older members will remember Hazel Munro and we share with her family their deep sense of loss. I was not fortunate enough to have met Hazel but we did correspond and speak on the phone and her wonderful sense of humour and character came across very clearly. Hazel's daughter, Judy Graham, sent this piece about her mother*

It is with great sadness that I am writing to you, to inform Clan Munro, of the passing of our wonderful Mother, Hazel Munro. Our father Allan Angus Munro was the Clan Munro's first representative in Australia and had spent many years researching the Munro Clan.

Hazel and Allan lived for many years in Malaya, and had three daughters. Dad retired from Malaya in 1971, moved back to Strathfield, eventually moving to Speers Point. Sadly Allan died in 1998, of brain cancer.

Hazel had moved to Dee Why Gardens in 2003, to be closer to her daughter Judy, and was very happy at Dee why Gardens. Due to complications after a fall, Mum passed away on 26th April, 2008. It has been a shock to the family, as it was so sudden - Hazel would have turned 97 in September, and had been very well. Mum had always hoped to "outlive" her Father, who died 40 days before he turned 100, and her sister who lived till 97. It is the end of an amazing generation of people, who have lived through many wars, the Depression and incredible changes in technology.

Hazel was loved by her three daughters, six grandchildren and one great grand child.



## Valz Kenneth Martin Munro 24 February 1922 – 24 May

*I met Ken Munro at our Sydney Gathering in 2004 and we corresponded frequently after that. Ken was a continuing source of encouragement to me and I will miss him very much. The following piece was sent to me by his daughter, Elsa Green.*

Ken passed away peacefully on 24 May at Canossa Private Hospital at the wonderful age of 86 years and 3 months after a courageous and stoical struggle with a very aggressive cancer only diagnosed 4 months earlier. The family never thought of Ken as "old" as he was both alert in mind and physically active for his age.



He was the middle child of 5, born in Marrickville, Sydney NSW to John Kenneth Munro (a Scottish sea captain) and Ruby Lydia Martin. The Munro family settled in Rockhampton, Queensland in 1932. With WWII, Ken patriotically served his country first in the AIF as a signaller and then later in the RAN as a leading telegraphist. It was during this time that he met and married his wife and life-long friend and companion of 63 years, Joycelyn Ailsa Garrick of West End, Brisbane. The young Munro's settled in St Lucia, Brisbane and raised a family of 3 (2 daughters and 1 son). The family grew to 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandsons.

Ken worked for the Department of Civil Aviation until his retirement in 1986. Over his life time he showed keen interests in photography, woodwork, Scottish Country dancing and Old Time dancing as well as the new technical era of computers and digital cameras. He enjoyed social activities with Joycelyn and was a member of a variety of clubs including Brisbane Camera Club, Probuss, RSL, Clan MacKenzie and Clan Munro. He was a faithful and committed member of the St Lucia Church community as a regular attender of the Uniting Church.

Ken epitomized the best qualities, summed up in the well-used Australian phrase "a decent bloke". He was hard working, honest, direct and forthright, always reliable and totally dependable.

The family is forever indebted to Dad for his life-time example of integrity, independent spirit and his unwavering belief in the importance and centrality in one's life of the love of one's home and family. He is already and will continue to be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

## Can You Help?

Hugh Munro arrived in Brisbane in 1862 aboard "Theresa" with Alexander Munro. Who was Alexander? What connection to Hugh? Does he have any descendants? Hugh was a brother to my grandfather John Haig Munro; their parents were James Munro and Elizabeth Haig of Kilwinning, Ayr. Contact has been made with Hugh's family in Queensland, but what of Alexander?

Any information gratefully received by Jean Munro - [jmunr@ozemail.com.au](mailto:jmunr@ozemail.com.au)

Sharyn Walsh is looking for information about Catherine Munro, 1834-1890 who married William Wenban, 1822-1877 in Sydney, NSW on 8 April 1851.

They had 9 children - Ebenezer, 1862 -1934; Tryphosa, 1853 -1853; Joseph, 1857 -1938; Mary, 1854/1864 -1890; Alfred, 1867-1877; Henry William (William Henry), 1859 -1919; Catherine, 1852 -1853; Elizabeth, 1850-1890.

Ebenezer is my great grandfather on my father's mother's side of the family.

Catherine Munro's parents were George and Mary Jane Munro. I have no maiden name for Mary Jane, or any other information about them at all. If you can help, please contact Sharyn at [lands@tadaust.org.au](mailto:lands@tadaust.org.au)

Michelle told me "the person I'm looking for is Sarah Ann Munro, b. around 1837 in London. She married a Thomas George Blandthorn b. around 1830 in Chester, England. They married in Melbourne on 01 Mar 1852 - they had several children all born around the Sandhurst/Bendigo areas from 1855 to 1878. I don't have any additional information for Sarah Ann and would like any info I can get."

Children of SARAH MUNRO and THOMAS BLANDTHORN are:

i. THOMAS2 BLANDTHORN, b. 1854; d. 1854.

ii. JOHN BLANDTHORN.

iii. ELIZABETH BLANDTHORN, b. 1855, Castlemaine, Vic, Australia; d. 1855, Castlemaine, Vic, Australia.

iv. MARGARET ELIZABETH BLANDTHORN, b. 1856, Vic, Australia; d. 1857, Castlemaine, Vic, Australia.

v. ELIZABETH ANN BLANDTHORN, b. 12 Jun 1860, Castlemaine, Vic, Australia; d. 12 Oct 1904.

vi. AMELIA BLANDTHORN, b. 1870; d. 1949.

vii. WILLIAM BLANDTHORN, b. 1873, Sandhurst, Vic, Australia; d. 1919, Whitehills, Bendigo, Vic, Australia.

viii. MARY ANN BLANDTHORN, b. 1875, Sandhurst, Vic, Australia; d. 1927.

ix. ROSANA BLANDTHORN, b. 1878, Sandhurst, Vic, Australia; d. 1945, Bendigo, Vic, Australia; m. THOMAS JOHN BESSENGER, 1899, Bendigo, Vic, Australia.

You can contact Michelle at [michelle@webcon.net.au](mailto:michelle@webcon.net.au)

Laura Lee Condron is looking for information on Albert Mitchell and his wife Elizabeth Harriet Munro, parents of Raymond Andrew Mitchell born 1898 in Violet Town, Victoria Australia.

Elizabeth Harriet Munro was born 1875 & died in 1944. She married Andrew Mitchell b 1867 d 1931 son of Andrew Mitchell b 1830 and Martha Ferguson b 1830 according to family records I received today from Australia. Elizabeth's father is Henry Munro and her mother was Maria Underwood whose father was Joseph Alexander Underwood who was sent to Norfolk Island Prison, after being found in the possession of saddles stolen by his brother William aka Jacky Underwood who was a bushranger. Joseph Underwood built the first hotel in Violet Town (the Railway Hotel). Raymond Andrew Mitchell is Laura Lee's maternal Grandfather. Contact Laura Lee on [lauralee48180@yahoo.com](mailto:lauralee48180@yahoo.com)

## Clan Munro (Association) Australia Newsletter

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