



Clan Munro Australia

Newsletter of the Clan Munro (Association) Australia

Volume 7 Issue 1

April 2010

Have you visited our Website at <http://clanmunroaustralia.org>

Chat

Wedding of the Year

The big news in this issue is, of course, the marriage of Finnian, the eldest son of our Chief Hector & Sarah, to his lovely fiancé, Ohma Oxley, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Oxley of Sydney. We have sent our congratulations to both sets of parents and to the young couple. I had quite a few excellent suggestions as to what wedding present we should send but in the end, sought the advice of Mrs Oxley with the only proviso being that it had to be Australian. Mrs Oxley handballed the decision to Ohma & Finnian and they decided on an Aboriginal wall hanging and cushions. There is a picture and a note from Finnian and Ohma following the wedding description.

Apology! In our last newsletter in talking about Greg & Kathryn Brain's new arrival Lachlan, I mentioned that Kathryn's Dad had died –in fact he is still very much alive - my apologies Kathryn. So, like Mark Twain, her Dad can now say "Rumours of my death are greatly exaggerated."

In February I had a letter from the Clan's lovely Treasurer, Mrs Isma Munro, to say that at long last a replacement has been found for her and she is able to retire after doing a sterling job for the last thirteen years. I have had an excellent relationship with Isma over the last eight years and in fact, it was she who twisted my arm to take on this job when we went home to the 2002 Gathering. So I have a lot to thank Isma for - and she did not really have to twist my arm too much!!

It is interesting to note that Isma's replacement is Mr George A Munro from Maryburgh – interesting in that I was born in Maryburgh. We wish George all the best in his new role.

But it is not all good news for a good friend and my biggest support in this job has passed away. Ailsa Stubbs-Brown was a remarkable lady and I will mention a little more about her in the body of the newsletter.

Welcome To Our New Members

William (Bill) Munro is our newest member, so welcome to the fold, Bill. He is descended from William Munro and Ann MacKay who came out on the James Moran in 1838. These are the Shoalhaven Munros and we have written about them a couple of times. So Bill has joined quite a number of our members from that same family.

This Month

Our Sydney family will be representing us once again on Anzac Day, so if you want to join them let me know & I will contact them

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Our Next Newsletter

Ailsa Stubbs-Brown's Biography

Homecoming – a short story by Natalie Gretton

A visit to Foulis Castle

A convict story

Ben Wyvis hopefully this time!

And, with any luck, there will be more!

Don

Finnian & Ohma Munro

As we all know, Finnian Munro and Ohma Oxley were married in December. We were so pleased to hear that Finnian had married a lovely Australian girl – what a wonderful combination. Finnian and Ohma spent their honeymoon in Australia, managed to visit the Apple Isle but time constraints meant that visiting the West was out of the question. On their return home to Scotland, they sent me the following description of the wedding and the lovely photographs. I am sure you will agree that they make a handsome couple and that is not surprising when you see the handsome parents they both have.

The wedding took place on the Sunday 27th December 2009 at 2.30pm, at Foulis Castle. The snow on the day was 16" deep though thankfully it hadn't snowed the previous day so the roads had been successfully cleared mainly by Dad and I as the Council's response due to the Christmas holiday was worse than useless. The sun was shining brightly and we had only half an hour delay as we waited for the arrival of two vehicles full of family travelling up from Edinburgh where the snow was still falling. There were 80 people or so at the ceremony, the majority consisted of close family and ten close mutual friends made during our time together in the Highlands. The wedding was delightful and having all the snow made it a truly a white wedding that we will never forget.



The wedding was celebrated by Reverend Canon Ian Pallet, from St James' Episcopalian Church of Scotland, Dingwall and the ceremony itself was held in the Castle ballroom with the congregation facing south. Ohma and her father were piped into the ballroom by Finnian's uncle, John Munro, who piped us out afterwards. Music during the ceremony was played by Finnian's mother, Alpha Munro and his cousin Fiona Munro. This was followed by photographs and champagne in the main hall and speeches back in the ballroom. We then had a late sit down lunch in the dining room, at which we had a chance chat to friends and family.

About 7.30p.m we left on a Massey-Ferguson tractor dragging some oil drums behind it before making our way to a local hotel in Fortrose for the night – this time by car!!

Ohma's parents Tony and Roslyn Oxley provided wonderful support right from their arrival on the 15th December and gave us a superb reception of delicious food washed down by French Champagne and the best Australian wine. The whole day was made so special by having the wedding at Foulis Castle thanks to Finnian's Grandmother, Timmy Munro of Foulis and all the family, who arranged the flowers, set up the ballroom and dining room and made it such a unique and special occasion.





Foulis Castle Sunday 27th December 2009 Ohma & Finnian

Order of Service

Entrance of the Bride

The Ruby, Aly Bain & Phil Cunningham, Bagpipes by John Munro

Welcome

The Reverend Canon Ian Pallett

Song

Wouldn't It Be Nice, Beach Boys, Piano by Fiona Munro

The Wedding Ceremony

Signing of Register Piano by Alpha Munro

Hymn

I Vow To Thee My Country, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, Piano by Fiona Munro

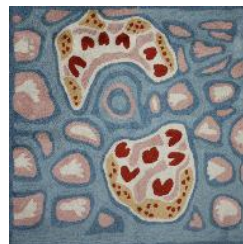
Readings

Ruth 1. 16-18, Luke 12.22-31

Prayer and Blessing

Exit of Bride and Groom, *Mhairi's Wedding*, Bagpipes by John Munro

Thank You



Dear Clan Munro Australia,

Thank you so much for your completely unexpected wedding present, how very kind and generous of you all. I'm pleased to say we have chosen a variety of Aboriginal art with our gift from you all which we're thrilled with. We have found a rather nice rug for a wall hanging and four cushions which we will enjoy in our sitting room, reminding us of Australia, its beautiful surroundings and rich heritage.

As you know many an Australian has originated from Scotland and being the very fortunate person I am I have married an Australian like many other farmers in our area. So it seems The Highlands here are very much home from home, give or take 20 degrees! I'm glad to say Ohma feels very relaxed in the Scottish outback but having these reminders of a land not so far away with modern transport in the form of your gift is a comfort to us both, especially Ohma.

Ohma and I had a wonderful honeymoon in and around Sydney, exploring NSW and as far a field as Tasmania which was a fascinating place with its beautiful forestry, towns and an insight into the past at Port Arthur Penitentiary and Strahan logging museum. As you can imagine much of our time was spent meeting new family and friends. We are sorry not to have managed to drop in on any of you but we look forward during future trips to visit some of you.

We are now back in Scotland and looking forward to what Spring may bring. Thank you again for our wedding present.

With all best wishes, Finnian and Ohma

A 1909 Wedding

In our August newsletter we had a Patterson/Munro history from Wendy Borchers. One part that I did not include was a wedding description as I thought it would make a nice little story on its own. If this wedding was held today, it would have cost a fortune – so here it is. We agonised over whether or not to include the description of the guests but I decided that we should, for who knows, some of your ancestors may be there! Let me know if you recognise anyone. As Wendy said to me, “can you imagine the (more than likely) male journalist painstakingly making all those detailed notes about the frocks the ladies wore?” As I say below, there were no photos of the wedding but the one shown below is of Wendy's mother in 1932 wearing her mother's dress from the 1909 wedding.

ORANGE BLOSSOMS: WILLIS – PATTERSON Northern Daily Leader, Tamworth, 08/05/1909



On Wednesday evening, at St John's Church of England, Tamworth, an interesting ceremony was performed, when May Kinross, second daughter of Mr John Patterson, solicitor, was married to Ernest Matthew, son of Mr M Willis, of North Sydney.

The bridal party entered the Church at 8.30pm and the bride, who was given away by her father, wore an exquisite gown of ivory Duchesse satin, with an overdress of Ninon,

elaborately embroidered and braided and the bodice finished with old rose point lace. She carried a shower bouquet of jonquils and Eucharist lilies, which, with a diamond ring, formed the bridegroom's gift. The bridesmaids were Miss Patterson (Charlotte Calrossy) sister of the bride and Miss Willis (Millie Elizabeth) sister of the bridegroom, who were attired in Directoire gowns of cream satin chateuse, richly braided with cream silk, long sash ends of cream silk braided to correspond, falling to the hems of the gowns. They wore

“She carried a shower bouquet of jonquils & Eucarest lilies.....”

in the hair, coronets of gold leaves and berries and carried wands with yellow and bronze cactus dahlias and gold streamers, which, with gold pendant brooches, set with tourmalines, were the bridegroom's

gifts. Barbara Ritchie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jack Ritchie, of Cransley, Harris Park, Sydney and little Arthur Peel, son of Mr and Mrs A.A. Cohen of Veranba, Tamworth, acted as pages and were very daintily dressed. The pretty little girl wore a white silk torchon lace frock and the latter cream satin. Both carried wands, similar to the bridesmaids and wore dainty scarf pins, the gift of the bridegroom.

The bridegroom was attended by his brother, D'Arcy, who acted as best man and Mr F J Bishop, who officiated as groomsman. The service, which was full choral, was conducted by the Reverend A G King and the Church was daintily decorated by the house party with Jasmine, ferns and white chrysanthemums. Over the bridal party was suspended a bridal bell, over which trailed asparagus and gracillimum ferns.

After the ceremony, a reception was held at Calrossy, the home of the bride's parents. The grounds were brilliantly illuminated with coloured electric lights and formed a veritable fairyland.

Mrs Patterson (Charlotte), mother of the bride, wore a handsome gown of grey satin charmeuse, richly trimmed with pastel shade embroidery and braidings, with a toque of cream and gold; Mrs Wall, aunt of the bride, a handsome gown of amethyst satin charmeuse, trimmed with velvet strappings and flowers and toque to correspond; Miss Ada Patterson (sister of the bride) a dainty cream satin dress, trimmed with heavy cream guipure lace and braidings of cream silk; Miss Aily Patterson, the youngest sister, also wore cream; Mrs Jack Ritchie, a Directoire costume of pale lavender cloth, with braiding of deeper shade and a hat trimmed with violets from palest to deepest shades.

Amongst the many guests were: Mrs H L Harris, black sequined net over glace; Mrs G S Brown, black satin; Mrs C Regan, pink Directoire gown; Mrs Paton, brown glace; Mrs Perry, black silk; Mrs Aubrey Cohen, pale grey satin, trimmed with rose point lace; Mrs A H Taggart, pale green chillion glace; Mrs Walter Leak, cream Ninon, with touches of blue; Mrs King, black lace over white glace; Mrs Vernon, cream silk, trimmed with buttercup; Mrs Victor Cohen, black and white silk; Mrs W Lee, black sequined frock; Mrs Walley, grey satin charmeuse; Mrs Branscombe, terre satin, trimmed with heavy

cream lace and velvet of a darker shade; Mrs Anschau, pale green silk; Mrs Reichel, grey cloth; Mrs Hornibrook, black silk, trimmed with handsome sequined lace; Mrs Halliday, grey satin, heavily beaded; Miss Darling, pale green silk, trimmed with velvet of a darker shade; Miss Paton, cream sequen net; Miss Scott (Tenterfield) white chiffon glace; Miss Y Cousens, pale green; Miss Horniman, pink silk; Miss I Horniman, white charmeuse; Miss Walley, biscuit coloured embroidered net over glace; Miss Read (Waverley), pale green Ninon, trimmed with point lace; Miss Hempton (Manilla), pastel blue silk, trimmed with pastel blue embroidery and net; Miss Loder, pink Ninon; Miss Irving, black glace; Miss Agnes Irving, cream silk; Miss Sefton, green; Miss Peril, cream silk.

The wedding breakfast was laid in the spacious dining room and the tables were exquisitely decorated with yellow chrysanthemums, Virginia creeper and trailing ferns. The breakfast was provided in excellent style by Mr G. H. Sands.

The health of the bride and bridegroom was proposed by the Rev A. G. King, in a happy little speech. The bridesmaids' health was proposed by Mr D'Arcy Willis and Dr H. L. Harris, as the oldest friend of the family present, proposed the health of the bride's parents and that of the absent parents of the bridegroom. Mr. J. Patterson responded. The presents were numerous and costly and included many cheques.

The guests indulged in dancing until midnight and many remained to escort the bride and bridegroom to the station and showered them liberally with confetti.

The bride's travelling dress consisted of a tailor-made coat and skirt of navy serge, with hat to match. She also wore a set of exquisite white fox furs, the gift of one of her oldest friends. The train left the station to the sound of ringing cheers."

The wedding must have been a huge social event in Tamworth in the first decade of the new century, so it is so disappointing that there are no known photographs. Maybe there were no photographers in the town who possessed the necessary flash equipment for a night shoot.

“.....and formed a veritable fairvland.”

“The guests indulged in dancing until midnight.....”

The Scottish Act Of Remembrance

When I included Graham Gates report on the Sydney Anzac Day Ceremony in our August newsletter I promised an explanation of the very moving and colourful part of the ceremony known as to “The Scottish Act of Remembrance.” After much fossicking around, Graham received the following explanation from the NSW Pipe Band Association. Is it not strange that this part of the ceremony has been shown only once on television in its 65 year history?

During the Second World War the Scottish Organisations of Sydney combined in a "Food for Scotland" campaign raising funds to send food parcels to Scotland. Following the end of the war "The Grand Council of Scottish Societies" wished to recognise and remember the sacrifice made by those of Scottish Australian heritage who had served in the armed forces

It was decided to recognise those of Scottish heritage who had given their lives by arranging for a Pipe Band to march to the Cenotaph where a wreath would be laid on behalf of the Scottish Community.

Anzac Day 1945 saw the first Parade organised but instead of one band, six bands assembled in the Domain led by Drum Major Ken Jones and marched into Macquarie Street to Martin Place.

Since that date every Anzac Day the now Massed Pipes and Drums have marched to the Cenotaph as an Observance that has become known as "The Scottish Act of Remembrance."

Initially the Grand Council organised the March. However during the late fifties that organisation disbanded but before doing so, requested the NSW Pipe Band Association, the parent body of pipe bands in NSW, to accept the responsibility for the Act of Remembrance which they did and which they continue to do to the present day.

Currently the Senior Drum Major of the Pipe Band Association organises the Drum Majors, the PBA appoint Senior Pipe Majors and Drum Sergeants as musical directors and placement of the Bands and Mrs. Mary Bell, a former PBA State Secretary, liaises with the Scottish Clan Associations and Societies for the Wreath Laying Party and Flag Bearers.

Thousands of Australians of Scottish descent served and in many cases died during the hostilities or as a result of their service. Many military units in both World Wars incorporated Scottish traditions and dress in their uniforms.

The parade takes the following format;

- A spearhead of selected Drum Majors take the lead,
- Flag Bearers carrying the Australian Flag, the Scottish Flag and the Union Jack follow. These personnel are provided by the Combined Scottish Society;
- Then follows one representative each of the PBA, the PBA Chaplain, the Scottish Societies and the Clan Societies and other invited Scottish Associations.
- The Massed Pipes and Drums form two contingents separated by the Drum Major in Control;
- Other Clan Members bring up the rear of the Parade behind the last contingent of pipers and drummers.

The Parade assembles in George Street near the corner of Bathurst Street, proceeds to march down George Street to the sound of the pipes and drums to Martin Place. Prior to entering Martin Place the Bands cease playing and form up around the Cenotaph. The Scottish representatives take station either side of the Cenotaph. The Massed Bands then play the Lament "The Flowers of the Forest" during which the representatives lay their wreaths. At the conclusion the parade moves to the dismissal point.

The PBA made a few changes, first inviting other Scottish Organisations to join the March and the Wreath Party. Over the years there have been other small changes at the request of the Police and other Authorities, ie. originally the Parade assembled in the Domain and marched via Macquarie Street to Martin Place but the route was changed and the March now commences from St. Andrew's Cathedral down George St. and into Martin Place.

Each year the numbers of participating bands grew, the flags of Australia, Scotland and the United Kingdom were added and placed at the head of the March. It was resolved that no Clan or Society Banners would be carried in this Act of Remembrance as it was and still is, a tribute to those who have died in or as a result of hostilities. Although an Act of Remembrance, and a sombre occasion, because of the colour, movement and sound of the Pipes and Drums it was and still is a most impressive ceremony which has resulted in an increase over the years in the number of spectators in Martin Place, despite negligible publicity.

During the years that this ceremony has been held, the Grand Council of Scottish Societies and the NSW Pipe Band Association has always appreciated the guidance and support of the Returned Servicemen's League, the Council of the City of Sydney, the Custodian of the Cenotaph and the members of the N.S.W. Police Service and of course the members of the Pipe Bands and Scottish Organisations.

Since 1945 most Pipe Bands in Sydney have willingly participated in this Service, always aiming for perfect presentation



This Parade and Remembrance Service, while it may look spectacular, the playing of the Lament and laying of the wreaths can bring memories of those who gave their lives and bring a tear to many an eye. As colourful and spectacular as it looks and how stirring the sound that it may be, to the organisers and the participants it is a simple and symbolic Act of Remembrance.

It may be of interest to note that the 2009 Parade was the 65th occasion the Parade has been held. Only once in the 1970's has any part of the Scottish Act of Remembrance been shown on television.

Vale Ailsa Stubbs-Brown

It was with much sadness that I received an email from Ken Besley in January to tell me that his Aunt, Ailsa Stubbs-Brown, had lost her battle with cancer. In talking about her funeral Ken said "*Ailsa's instruction for the service was that it should be a joyous celebration of her fortunate life, and I feel that we well met her wishes.*" Ailsa was very special to me as she was such a support in my position as your Australian Representative – I have a special file for all the letters she sent to me! Ailsa was one of Queensland's first lady physiotherapists and among other things was very much involved in setting up Riding for the Disabled. But that is enough for now as Ailsa was a very forward thinking lady and completed her biography just a week before she died. That is something that we should all think about doing. I will print Ailsa's biography in the next couple of newsletters.

Missing Member

The last newsletter I sent to Mrs Janet D Litchfield at Lourdes Village in Killara was returned. I phoned the village to be told that she had left the village 4 or 5 years ago & that it is possible that she had died. If anyone can confirm that or let me know of Mrs Litchfield's whereabouts, could you please let me know.

McGregor/Munro Family Reunion

Jan MacKenzie has organised a McGregor/Munro reunion for members of those two clans whose ancestors settled on Woodford Island in the Clarence River. She is arranging it for the weekend of the 12th, 13th and 14th June - long weekend in N.S.W. If you are interested contact Jan on alkeringa@bigpond.com or write to P.O. Box 626, Narrabri N.S.W. 2390.

A Ghost Story

You don't believe in ghosts? Margaret Neyle didn't either until she went to Scotland on holiday!! Maybe we should check out our ancestors' connection with the places we visit before we go there.

I have Armstrong blood flowing in my veins as well as Munro. My Munro married an Armstrong. I am not superstitious and regard ghost stories with scepticism. While holidaying with my sister at Jedburgh some years ago we went for a drive late in the afternoon. Being National Trust members we had a National Trust map and saw a castle marked on the map. When we got there it was only the keep that was left. We parked our car amongst a mob of highland cattle and walked up. There was a caretaker and he told us to go up, as on one floor there was an exhibition of miniatures of characters in Sir Walter Scott's poems. My sister had a bad leg and couldn't climb the winding staircase, also it was a true battle castle where the steps didn't match the floors. The further up I climbed the most awful feeling of dread surrounded me. It was a horrible feeling. When I got to the top I opened the door and stepped out on to the battlement and gazed over the countryside. Although there wasn't a breath of wind the door behind me slammed with a great bang. Something told me I wasn't welcome in that castle. I turned, opened the door and never got down a spiral staircase so fast in all my life.

When I reached the bottom my sister turned to me and said "*this gentleman was just telling me that in the days of the border reivers this castle was attacked by the Armstrongs when the men were away. They raped the women and killed the children. This was considered a bad deed even by the reivers as they had their own code of conduct and this grim deed broke it. They were described as big red headed men by the accounts of the day.*"

My great grandfather Armstrong was big red headed man. To this day I swear that castle knew the blood that flowed in my veins and resented me being there!!

Can You Help?

Please let us know if you have success in finding a relative so that I can mention it in a follow up newsletter. We have had success with additional contacts from that follow up message so it is to your advantage to do so.

Tammy Faust sent this to me - "I am after any information on Winifred McFarlane (nee Munro) who died - 1910 Maclean NSW. In 1866 she married John McFarlane in Grafton. In her death record it says that her parents were Myles Munro and Catherine. The only record I have of them is of their arrival in Australia on the Ontario in 1852. There is no record of Winifred's birth in NSW BDM, and no record of her having been on the ship to Australia. There is a possibility that the names Winifred & Hannah might be interchangeable so we might be looking for a Hannah McFarlane nee Munro - I hope that clarifies rather than confuses". Contact Tammy at kchc4@bigpond.com

Cynthia White sent this – "I was recently given by a family member a 1854 Crimean Medal and a 1857-58 Indian Mutiny Medal, with the Name Robert Munro, 79th Highlanders engraved on them. I have been able to find out he was Private Robert Munro, Regimental Number 3023.

No older members of the family can remember who Robert Munro is or where he fits into the family, or when he may have come to Australia. Do you have anyone in your group that may be able to help me with information about Robert Munro?" If you have Robert Munro in your family who was in the Cameron Highlanders, contact Cynthia at quintoncynthia@netspeed.com.au

Pat Kettley is trying to trace Donald Munro from Solitote, Kilmaluag, Kilmuir, Isle of Skye.

His parents were Hector and Flora, he had several siblings; Mary-Anne (1863-1951), Lachlan (1865-1955), Margaret (1867-?), James (1868-1920), Catherine (1869-?), Heugh (1873-1953) and my grandfather Samuel (1875-1955) James and Heugh emigrated to S Africa. Contact Pat at patkettley@yahoo.co.uk

George Pratt, Vancouver Canada says - A Daniel Munro from my gang went to Australia probably about 1830's. We start with John Munro of Inverness, Scotland, who married Ann Fraser. They had eight kids, of whom we only know the names of four boys; George (said to have gone to Bermuda), John Alexander, who married Isabella McKay and went to Canada, David about whom we know nothing; and Henry who went to the U.S. where he married Eleanora Tucker. Henry and Eleanora had four kids: Ella, John, Daniel and George. Daniel is said to have gone to Australia and we know nothing more about him. If anybody in this gang strikes a chord, contact me. Oh, yes, Henry may have had a second wife with a name other than Eleanora. It's all pretty sketchy, I realise. We know a lot about the Canadian branch i.e., John Alexander that we could share. You can contact George on granitecarver@gmail.com

Membership

As requested, I have included our membership fees in case you would like to upgrade or perhaps give a prospective member an indication of our fees. This is not a request for fees; I will contact you when yours are due.

Annual Membership: \$25.00 Spouse or children of member under 18 years \$8.00**
Three Years: \$55.00 Spouse or children of member under 18 years (3 years) \$20.00**
Ten Years: \$160.00 Spouse or children of member under 18 years (10 years) \$70.00**

Life Membership is calculated according to age as follows: -

Up to Age 40: 3 X 10 Year Dues \$480.00
Age 40 to 50: 2 X 10 Year Dues \$320.00
Age 50 to 60: 1½ X 10 Year Dues \$240.00
Age 60 and over: Same as 10 Year Dues \$160.00
Age 80 and over Half Ten Year Dues \$80.00

* The fees charged include membership of our parent organisation in Scotland

** Correspondence from Clan Munro (Association) Australia will only be sent to the full member

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The stories printed in this newsletter are as presented by the writers and are accepted by the editor on that basis. Where necessary they have been abridged to fit the newsletter.