



Clan Munro Australia

Newsletter of the Clan Munro (Association) Australia

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News

As mentioned last month The Burt Munro "Fastest Indian" film has already opened in New Zealand and at long last, it is opening this month in Australia with excellent reviews. Get along and see it and let me know what you think.

Remember to start preparing for the 2007 Gathering.

This Month

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Next Newsletter

With the 70th Anniversary of the Clan Munro (Association) planned for 2007, Lily Sims has sent me a very timely article that appeared in The Herald (Melbourne) in August 1936 under the heading.....

"Castle Foulis na theine" CLAN MUNRO RALLYING CRY GOES FORTH

"The battle cry of the Munros is being sent around the earth today for the purpose of forming a world wide Clan Munro Association."

I will reprint the article in our next newsletter which will be very close to the date that the original was published.

We will also have the story of Archibald Chisholm Munro & much more.

Don

Have you visited our Website at <http://geocities.com/clanmunroau/index>

Chat

We have two new Munro babies, three weddings & five new members - now that is something to make us happy. Two of our new members are from two of our Skye Munro families. Another two belong to the same family as one of our Victorian members but more of that later.

What a hectic few months since the previous newsletter - the Skye Munros have taken centre stage and are buzzing like bees round a honey pot. We have three of these families in our membership and it is thought that they all connect to one original family who came to Skye from Ross & Cromarty. They are thought to be a branch of the Munros of Katewell but RW Munro, the Clan Munro genealogist, could not find any proof of this. The important thing of course is to connect these families and we are, I believe, just about one link away from doing this.

We had a lovely surprise a couple of weeks ago when Andrea & Kerry Biddolph from Kirrawee dropped in for a cup of coffee. We had not seen Andrea since the Sydney Gathering, so it was nice to see her again and to meet Kerry. Talk about a small world - the friend they were staying with, Terry Westcott, turned out to be a local boy & was born & brought up close to where Bet & I live, so we had plenty of reminiscing to do!

Welcome To Our New Members

Jim Munro is descended from the same Skye Munro family as Colleen MacAllister and is descended from Duncan Munro and Catherine McPhie who came to Australia on the Arabian in 1854. Jim traces his family two generations further back to Alexander Munro & Catherine Nicolson. He is off to Skye in August to try & find the key that will open the lock on the Skye Munro mystery.

Our next new member is Don Munro whose ancestors came to the West from Broadford in Victoria where members of a Scottish group took up land holdings - there must be a Skye connection there! Don traces back through his grandfather John Munro (who came to Australia) to Alexander Munro & Margaret Forbes from Ross & Cromarty. Don and his brother Jack played football for East Fremantle and were also well known in the area for their tennis & cricket prowess.

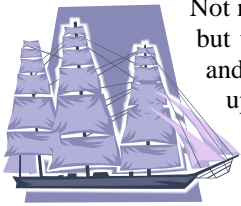
Del Smith was our next new member and she is from the same Skye family as Lily Sims. Del traces her family to Donald Munro and Catherine MacGillivray who came to Australia on the Hercules in 1853 from Breakish, Skye. Del has not yet been able to find Donald's parents. Check out Del's Skye poem on page 6

Our most recent members are David Munro & his wife Gaye. David traces back to William Hector Munro & Christina Sutherland who came to Australia on the Wanata in 1852 then two generations further back to John Munro and Jean Mackay who were married in 1793 in Reay Parish, Sutherland. This all seemed familiar but when I read more of what David & Gaye had sent me, I found that I was looking at a story that Natalie Gretton had sent to me a few months before - goose bumpy stuff! Natalie is descended from another branch of the same family & did not know about David's WA family. Needless to say they are exchanging information and planning a meeting.

COLIN MUNRO OF DRYNIE

Ailsa Stubbs-Brown from Queensland, Gail Munro from SA, Neil Munro from Queensland & Ken Besley from New South Wales are all descended from Colin Munro of Grenada, British West Indies and Inverness, Scotland. Refer to The Clan Munro Magazine No 22, pages 10 & 11 for reference to Colin Munro of Granada and his house in Inverness. It is interesting to note that Alpha Munro has taught the fiddle to students in the Highland House of Music which was the house owned by Colin Munro and described in the article. This is the first of three stories about that family.

This is the story of Colin Munro III (1834-1918) whose father Colin Munro II (1798-1868) was a master mariner and the 4th child of Colin Munro I (1756-1823) of Granada & Inverness & his wife Sarah Chisholm, the daughter of Dr William Chisholm, Provost of Inverness. From now on we will refer to Colin Munro III as Munro to try & avoid confusion. Munro's father was born in Inverness & died in Mile End, London where Munro was born. His mother was Elizabeth Gilbert.



Not much is known about Munro's early life but we do know that he was well educated and very good with figures and could tot up three columns of figures (pounds, shillings & pence) simultaneously. The thought is that he must have worked as a ledger keeper or something similar after leaving school. The first we know of him is in 1850 on the barque Salsetta of 422 tons. On February 24, 1850, the Salsetta sailed from Falmouth for Port Jackson, arriving between July & September. The ship carried merchandise & general cargo, the Master was Colin Munro & carried 3 passengers – Mrs Munro, son & servant. That would have been an exciting trip for the 16 year old Munro

We now fast forward to 1854, the year that Munro arrived in Australia for the second time and although there is no record of his arrival on the official records it is reasonable to assume that he arrived on his father's ship, the Luma/Luna. Letters show that Munro was not on good terms with his father and the parting at dockside might have been a mutually satisfying event! The family believes that Munro gained his knowledge of the sugar industry in the British West Indies.

Once again there is a gap in our knowledge of Munro's doings but we do know that he returned to London in 1862 to marry Mary Neill Young, the daughter of the Rev John Young DD. Until 1867 Munro was involved in land deals mainly on the Albert River and in 1869 the Courier gave a full report about the sugar mill erected by Munro at Fisherfield on the Albert River near Brisbane. *"His mill was powered by horses who walked around a six meter circle to drive the machinery. The two horses were worked hard and the system was a copy of mills in Jamaica and the horse method was working well there. The mill was cheap, costing only £150.00 for machinery."*

While at Fisherfield, Munro took an interest in other matters around him and was active in the Presbyterian community. A report in the Queenslander of August 17, 1872 stated *"Members of the Presbyterian body followed up a move by the C of E to erect a church and Mr Colin Munro, who had taken a great interest in the matter, has met with success in obtaining contributions and it will not be long before the Presbyterian body will have a church of their own."* During their time at Fisherfield, their children were born; Colin, John

Young, Charles Gilbert, William Albert, a boy who died, Eliza Waugh, Alexander Waugh, and Archibald Chisholm.

This first venture into sugar cane farming was not really successful and during this period he also lost £15,000.00 when his bank (probably the Bank of Glasgow) failed. The 1870s were troublesome times for the sugar industry in that area. Most of the varieties of cane chosen were unsuitable because of lack of rust resistance and frost intolerance and there were considerable losses due to both causes and it took time to obtain new, more suitable varieties. All of this coupled with the rapidly advancing sugar technology seriously disadvantaged the less modern operators – and Munro would have fallen into this category. He saw the writing on the wall and by 1900 he had sold up and moved to Sheep Station Creek, a tributary of the Burdekin River, near Ayr in North Queensland.

Munro called his new property Drynie. He had about 200 acres under sugar cane and employed 18 Kanakas and 5

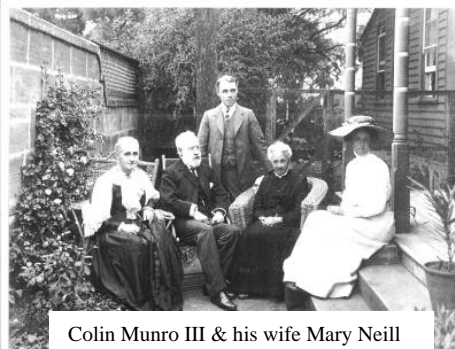


white men. Munro had used Kanakas at Fisherfield and also did so at Drynie but there he went one step further. Together with a few others, he formed the Townsville Shipping Co. Ltd. and operated a schooner, the Ceara, to recruit Kanaka labourers – "blackbirding." Munro must have treated his Kanakas well for EW Docker in his book *"The Blackbirders"* says *"Former labourers would genuinely wish to enlist again but were put off because the Queensland destinations were so unpopular. William Matson F.A. of the May Queen, recruiting for the Brisbane district in 1874, found one group of islanders willing to work for such employers as Davy, Goodin and Munro as he began to call off some names but emphatically not for Louis Hope or George Raff of Caboolture."* When it came time for the Kanakas to return to their island, most elected to stay at Drynie. The Kanakas were generally of a happy nature with a fondness for children. We will see an example of that another issue in AC Munro's story.

At Drynie, Munro also ran cattle and established a factory that is thought to be the first to manufacture condensed milk in Australia. But things now took a turn for the worse – a bovine disease then called "redwater" struck the cattle. It was a problem caused by a blood stream parasite carried by the cattle tick that had been introduced on water buffalo brought in from the Netherland Indies. Cattle in Australia, having had no previous exposure, were entirely without immunity and the results were disastrous. By the time treatment and control measures had been devised, Munro's herd had been reduced to one beast. The factory was taken over by Nestles.

At the same time, Australia suffered a horrendous depression. Before recovery, the Australian banking system was in tatters. Instead of the seventy odd, well established banks before the depression, there remained only about fourteen by 1900. Munro had weathered one bank failure but this was all too much. He struggled on until the end of 1900, when the mortgagees sold Drynie.

In 1901 the family dispersed. Archibald went to prospect for gold around Charters Towers. William, who had earlier fallen out with his father, had taken a job splitting railway sleepers and later became a sugar boiler.



Colin Munro III & his wife Mary Neill Young in the centre with son William

Later still, he was employed in a survey crew and studied surveying while so employed. Colin obtained a small farm at Cardwell but could not keep it. Elizabeth took employment as a governess and later trained as a nurse and Aunt Alice also was trained in nursing.

Further south, McConnel of Cressbrook had subdivided his substantial holdings into farms suitable for dairying but of course a market for the dairy produce was essential. For this reason, he decided to set up a milk condensery and approached

Munro to manage the project but it was not successful initially. Although Munro had succeeded in manufacturing condensed milk in North Queensland, here he encountered problems that were not within his experience and the early output was a failure. McConnel temporarily closed down the factory and sent Munro's son William Albert overseas to learn the latest manufacturing techniques. On his return, he was appointed manager and, with the new methods he introduced, the venture was successful.

His grandson, Colin, from whose writings the above story has been condensed, had only vague childhood memories of Munro. *"My own recollection did not, could not, tally with the imaginary figure which loomed large in family legend. All I remember was, as a very small boy, no more than 5 years of age, if that, walking with my father up the front stairs of a house in Brisbane to be met at the head of the stairs by an old man, broad shouldered, white bearded and wearing a dark green velvet skull fitting cap, then known as a smoking cap. At that point my mental image fades. I cannot recall more."*

Colin Munro III of Drynie died at his residence in Doris Street, West End, Brisbane on 9th July 1918 having lived a very full and eventful life as a pioneer of the Australian sugar and condensed milk industries. Colin Munro tells us that Munro's son, William Albert has given us Munro's most fitting epitaph when he said *"He was a clever man – he would try anything."* That surely expresses the spirit of the men who set out to tame this new land – to make it a country for us, their descendants.

The Things We Do

Elizabeth Munro, one of our NSW members, is a clinical psychologist working for the Probation and Parole Service in Sydney and in her spare time she is certainly involved in all things Scottish!

She is on the committee of the Scottish Australian Heritage Council in Sydney and although not able to be with the Munros in the March of the Clans to the Gathering at Hyde Park on Sunday December 4th, Elizabeth was there as she plays tenor drum for the NSW Police Pipe Band (an entirely voluntary organisation). Her husband, Sam Young, is the Pipe Major. In her role as President of the Scottish Dancing Association of Australia she helped to co-ordinate the highland dancing displays at the Gathering and even danced herself late in the afternoon, when most of the younger ones had gone!

On the following Sunday the band played at a concert at the Sydney Town Hall to raise funds for the Special Olympics. A photographer from the Sydney Morning Herald was there and Elizabeth's photo was in the paper on the Monday. Unfortunately the photographer was a bit confused and she was described as being part of the NSW Police **Marching** Band!!! This, in spite of the fact that they were wearing their standard Ancient Mackay kilts and outfits - and as well as the drummers there were eleven playing the bagpipes – wonder what Sam and the other blokes in the band thought about being so described?

As mentioned above, Elizabeth is President of the Scottish Dancing Association of Australia, so obviously Highland Dancing is a big part of her life. She has her own Highland Dancing school (*the Argyll Highland Dancers - after the area her from which her grandfather, Duncan Cowan Munro, originated*) and has had a very successful year. Five of her pupils were selected to dance at the Edinburgh Tattoo - A Salute to Australia. I am sure that we all watched the wonderful display on TV and Ron Munro and his daughter saw it in person. Two of her dancers had already performed at the 2004 Edinburgh Tattoo and three were selected for the Australian team which went to perform at a Tattoo for the Sultan of Oman in November. In August Elizabeth officiated as a judge at the World Highland Dancing Championships, which are held each year at the Cowal Highland Gathering at Dunoon on the last Saturday in August. This was her fourth time officiating at this event and she had also competed there in 1985 and 1988.

What a great story of Scottish involvement. If you have anything for the "Things We Do" section, please let me know...Don

Neil Munro

Neil Munro was one of Scotland's best loved authors and his historical novels were valued in their time as much as the work of Walter Scott or R. L. Stevenson before him. Also so very popular were his comic tales of the Master Mariner, Para Handy and his somewhat hapless crew on board their puffer The Vital Spark. Munro was a journalist, critic, novelist and a poet – if you have not read any of his work, I suggest you search the second hand bookshops to see what you can find. If you are really interested, there is Neil Munro Society that you can join – just let me know and I will send you details. Most of what I have written has come from internet sources but I have read and enjoyed three of his historical novels as well as *The Lost Pibroch and Other Sheiling Stories* & have added my own comments on some of these. My copy of Para Handy is well thumbed and if ever I need a bit of cheering up, any of the stories in that book will do the trick!

Neil Munro was born in Inveraray, Argyll in 1863 to Ann Munro, a kitchen maid. Neil and his mother moved in with his grandmother, Anne McArthur Munro in her one-roomed house in McVicar's Land. His mother & grandmother were Gaelic speakers so Neil was well versed in the old language and culture from birth and it was only natural that the beautiful country in which he was raised became the setting for many of the tales in his *The Lost Pibroch and Other Sheiling Stories*. In 1875 his mother married Malcolm Thomson, the governor of the Inveraray jail.

In spite of not going to university, Neil became one of the outstanding literary figures of his day. He was educated at the parish school in Inveraray and at the little school in Glen Aray where the teacher taught the Bible in Gaelic. His first job after he left school in 1877 was as a clerk in the office of William Douglas, a local lawyer who was to become the model for one of his characters. Whilst working there he learned what Latin he knew and also taught himself shorthand so it looks as if he intended to have a career in journalism from a very early stage. Neil soon found that his ambitions would have very little chance of succeeding in the Highlands and, as did so many other Highland lads, he moved south – in his case to Glasgow. This he did 1881, two days before his eighteenth birthday but as mentioned earlier, he never forgot the countryside in which he grew up, the characters and beauty of which were to feature so strongly in his novels.

After a brief spell as cashier in a firm of ironmongers he moved into a career in journalism and became successively reporter on *The Greenock Advertiser*, *The Glasgow News*, the *Falkirk Herald*, and finally the *Glasgow Evening News* where he was made chief reporter under editor James Murray Smith at the age of only 23. He married Jessie Adam, the daughter of his landlady.

While earning his living through his journalistic writing he also sent humorous sketches to the London paper *The Globe*. In 1896 he published his collection of short stories *The Lost Pibroch and Other Sheiling Stories* set in his native Argyle and two years later his first novel, *John Splendid* was published and it has been said that this was the first truly authentic Highland novel. The novel is set in a period of social change. Through his eyes we see the sack of Inveraray by Montrose and his victory at the Battle of Inverlochy in 1645. John Splendid's loyalty to his Clan Chief is so shaken by his cowardly actions that he abandons his Chief returns to his previous occupation of mercenary soldier.

“....Neil became one of the outstanding literary figures of his day....”

Buoyed by the success of *John Splendid*, Neil Munro decided to concentrate on his literary work and reduced his journalism to two weekly columns in 1899 he had the novel *Gilian the Dreamer* published. This was again set in Inveraray at a time of social change - in the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars. His next three novels were all to be loosely connected with the aftermath of the Jacobite Rising of 1745. *Doom Castle* in 1901 showed the hopelessness of the Jacobite cause in the face of the changes that were taking place. *The Shoes of Fortune* also in 1901 has its setting in Lowland Scotland and in France. It deals with the death throes of the Jacobite movement as it makes a final bid to join the French in an invasion of Britain. In 1903, he wrote *Children of Tempest* which has a small connection with the '45 rising. Set in South Uist, it tells of the Loch Arkaig treasure, French money which had been intended to support the Rising but had mysteriously been moved to a cave on the island of Mingulay.



It was at this time that Neil Munro decided to change direction and in 1904 he published the humorous sketches about Erchie MacPherson, the beadle and waiter who had comments on all aspects of Glasgow life. I have not yet read any of the Erchie sketches but a friend tells me that did not enjoy them as much as the

Para Handy stories, the first of which were published in 1905. These became so popular that they made Munro a household name for generations to come. He published them under the pen name of Hugh Foulis, keeping his own name for his more serious work. In 1907 he published *The Clyde, River and Firth*, a beautiful travelogue with painted illustrations. This was followed by *The Daft Days* set in contemporary times as opposed to his earlier historical romance themes.

By now his literary reputation was quite secure and in 1908 he was honoured with an LLD from the University of Glasgow. This was followed the next year with the award of the Freedom of Inveraray.

In 1910 he published his least successful novel, *Fancy Farm*, and this was followed in 1912 by the much more successful short story collection *Ayrshire Idylls*. These sketches were illustrated with the drawings and watercolour landscape paintings of George Houston. The sketches show Munro very much at home in a Lowland Ayrshire setting and among others contain four stories which reconstruct incidents from the life of Burns and two which depict Covenanting tales.

The disappointment of Fancy Farm brought Neil Munro back to the historical style he had made his own, resulting in his last and most accomplished novel, *The New Road* in 1914. General Wade built the 'New Road' between Stirling and Inverness to allow speedy movement of troops in case of further uprisings but what it also did was connect the Highlands to the Lowlands as they never been connected before. This did result in a more civilised and prosperous way of life for the Highlands but what it also did was completely change everything including the loss of the whole ancient Highland way of life. I found this one a really good read.

Neil Munro returned to full time journalism at the outbreak of the First World War and, as a war correspondent, visited the Front on four occasions. The most traumatic event of the war for Munro was the loss of his son Hugh at Loos in 1915. This had a far reaching effect on him and Hugh's death, combined with the pressure of work on the paper – he was now the editor of the *Glasgow Evening News* – slowed down his literary output. But he had not completely run out of steam for in 1918 he published *Jaunty Jock and Other Stories*, a witty short story collection. An unfinished sequel to *The New Road* survives and is set just after Culloden. It is such a pity that this novel was never completed.

In 1927 Neil Munro's health was failing and this forced his reluctant retirement from the *Glasgow Evening News* that he loved so much. He continued to

work in his retirement and his last book was a *History of the Royal Bank of Scotland* published in 1928 and he continued to write articles, "Random Reminiscences" for the *Daily Record and Mail* under the pen name of Mr Incognito. In October 1930, he was honoured with a second LLD, this time by the University of Edinburgh, but it was obvious that he was not well and he died a few months later at his home, "Cromalt" in Craigendoran, Helensburgh. He was survived by his wife, Jessie, one son, and four daughters.

Throughout his life Neil Munro had written poems which had been published in magazines, newspapers and in his novels. Although some would say that they were not up to the quality of his prose, there are some very fine pieces and, after his death John Buchan edited a collection of his poetry in 1931.

In 1935 An Comunn Gaidhealach erected a monument to him at the head of Glen Aray. The decoration at the top of the simple column is in the shape of a Celtic book shrine and on it is the Gaelic inscription "Sar Litreachas" - "Excellent Literature."



Among those present at the ceremony were many friends and admirers including Sir Harry Lauder. In his address, the writer R. B. Cunninghame Graham praised Neil Munro as "the apostolic successor of Sir Walter Scott". A fitting tribute!

Genealogy from Ron's Desk

This piece is not really from Ron Munro but it does fit well into this segment. Cynthia Moonie sent it to me with her report on her family gathering last year

I went to a seminar with Janet Reekes many years ago, and one of the things she tried to impress on all those in attendance is that **we must not keep all our family history in a cardboard box under a bed**. She believed that if or when something happens to you, some other family member will save and store your research if it is tidy and in a binder that they can simply place in their bookcase. Even if they are not interested, it can be easily stored until another family member wants to pick up where you left off. **But, if it's in a box, it will most likely go to the dump!** Unfortunately, I believe she is right, and am aware that even in our family, some precious items have already been "misplaced" and most possibly have gone to the dump. So, my next assignment I have set for myself, is to get all the information I have now got, into this program and the photos properly labeled and in an album. Luckily, this program I have, called Personal Ancestor File, or PAF (Free and can be downloaded from the net. Made and supplied by the Mormon church.), can store photos attached to the record of individuals. I also share all the photos I get my hands on, as well as any history I get, with any and all family who are interested. That way, I believe that should some disaster strike one household, for example, a house fire, then at least it would not all be lost.

Congratulations

As soon as our last newsletter with the announcement of Graham and Marguerite's engagement was published, I received this email from Colin Munro. *"The above Chapel (the Holy Trinity Mowbray Chapel, West Chatswood) was in the grounds of Mowbray House School where I went as a small boy to the Preparatory School. The School closed in the 1950's & the chapel was moved west along Mowbray Road to its present site. We had to attend chapel every morning rain, hail or shine. My brother Finlay John Peden Munro (Jock) was christened in that chapel in 1948. The school motto was Qui Discit Crescit...He who Learns does grow. I am delighted to know that a Munro will take his wedding vows there all these years later. I offer Graham and Marguerite my warmest good wishes for their wedding early in the New Year and a grand a glorious life together."* And the Clan, of course, seconds that - Don

Bruce and Lindsay Munro are doing their bit to increase the Clan Munro numbers in Australia. I received this message in December. *"Jessica Rachael Munro, daughter of Andrew and Joanna; Granddaughter of Bruce and Lindsay Munro arrived Saturday 10 December 2005. We now have eight Munro Grandchildren!!!! Lindsay Munro"* We send our congratulations to Bruce & Lindsay and of course to Andrew & Joanna.

We have a new Munro in Norway. Don & Remy Munro from Queensland are so pleased to announce the arrival of Phillip Alexander Munro-Omdahl born in Oslo to daughter Anja and Rune in Norway on February 2. We send our congratulations to Don, Remy, Anja & Rune.

Carolyn & Quentin Munro's second son Guy and Becky Taylor were married on February 24. That's the happy couple in Quentin's 1932 vintage Ford. It was a lovely wedding but Quentin had to go fishing for a fortnight to recover. We wish them all the best for the happy years to come.



Muffy and Colin Munro's daughter Kirsty Catriona Stewart Munro and Ben Craigie were married in the Southern Highlands of NSW on a lovely day in February of this year. The ceremony was held in a beautiful setting under an old oak tree behind the Burrawang village hotel and the reception was held in the School of Arts beautifully decorated as only the people from the bush can do. We wish them a long and happy life together.



And of course as mentioned in the last newsletter, Graham Munro Gates and Marguerite Irene Moyes were married on 7th January 2006 at All Saints Mowbray Anglican Church, Chatswood, Sydney and now live in the Southern Highlands of NSW at their home in Burradoo. Marguerite has Scottish connections through her previous husband, William Ian Sadler Moyes, whose father, an architect, was born in Glasgow in 1879 and emigrated at the aged of 26 to Australia in 1905. He proposed to his Scottish sweetheart, Isaacina Bayley Sadler of Edinburgh and upon acceptance she traveled out by ship and they married in 1914 at Kogarah in NSW.

Skye

When I went to visit Del Smith, one of our new members from WA, she told me how much she had been affected by her visit to the home of her ancestors. This is the very touching poem she wrote about her ancestors' journey to their new home in Australia. It is a story that could apply to many of our members.

*They came from Skye one year apart
Those many years ago
To try their luck in a new land
And see their future grow.*

*Their journeys were both long and hard
And death was always near,
The fever on board the "Hercules"
Was a very real reason to fear.*

*The "Georgiana" it lost its crew
The captain shot the cook,
The stories told of the goldfields
It appears was all that it took.*

*"How dare they" the authorities said
"Leave the captain without his crew"
Now the troopers have a task ahead
To find that mutinous few.*

*So many weeks had now gone by
With nothing but the sea
From the time they said their sad farewells
When the tears then did run free.*

*Past history tells of their journey
The reason they all left their homes
It appears the landlords got greedy
And wanted it all for their own.*

*The oxen and cart then took them
To the start of their new life
How lonely and strange from all that they knew
As with husband children and wife*

*A few pounds along with some rations
Enough to last them a year
Was an offer one took as a shepherd
With the hope of his own land to clear.*

*They shared the land with the natives
At first with no trust in mind
They came from opposite sides of the world
So a kinship was hard to find,*

*The natives they worked for the farmer
The woman shared all the chores
With one baby after the other
They soon found a common cause.*

*McDonalds and Munro to name a few
Are the names we carry with pride
With the courage and will they showed us
We don't have a thing to hide.*

*From Kings and Queens and Vikings
This island has seen it all
The potato famine along with the sheep
Set the scene for its tragic fall.*

*And so they came from this island
With a history all of its own
What were their thoughts when they left then
Never again to go home.*

*It didn't take long once I went there
To think of this place as my own
There's a tear in my eye when I think of Skye
And for certain I'm not alone. Del Smith Sept 1997.*

Can You Help?

We had immediate success with our last queries. What I described as a long shot by Nelson Poole turned out to be very short odds as Colleen McAllister replied by return to let Nelson from Cape Breton know that he has a whole mob of Aussie relatives - an excellent result. As always, if you are not on email contact me, Don Munro & I will pass the information on.

Mike Page traces his family back to Hector Munro and Catherine Gow who were married in Crieff in 1818. Their children were Agnes: b. 9 Jan 1839 in Crieff; Angus: ??; James: b. 26 Nov 1821 (Scotland), died in Rochester, Victoria, Australia 17 Aug 1906; Hector: b. 26 March 1824 in Lanark, Scotland, died in Rochester, Victoria 31 Jan 1913 – he married Susan Cook in Scotland 28 Sept 1849 and their children were: Hector: b. 31 July 1850 (Scotland); Adam: b. 18 July 1852 (Scotland) died 22 Apr 1949 in Rochester, Victoria; Janet Elizabeth: b. 12 Aug 1855 in Richmond, Victoria, d. 13 Jan 1935 in Rochester, Victoria; Katherine b 12 Jan 1859 in Richmond, Victoria (died same year); Margaret b. 1 Sept 1862 in Riddells Creek, Victoria. If any of this rings a bell, contact Mike at house_of_lepage@yahoo.com

Darren Millar is trying to expand the tree of Archibald Duncan Munro (17/7/1912 – 1/1/41) born in Willesdon London England and died at Ashington, Northumberland. In 1936 he married Nicholas Haggerty (9/4/1911-20/5/2003) at St Lukes Church in Hammersmith, London. His mother's name was Anne Rebecca Kimber (d.6/3/1937). His father was a Merchant Seaman - Albert Munro. I was hoping someone has a connection to the above. Archibald's only son Charles Duncan is now living in Australia. Contact Darren on dcm001@netspace.net.au

Don Brown from Kangaroo Flat, Vic. is descended from William John Munro & Mary Kerr. Their son David was born in Glasgow approx 1841. David Munro came out to Australia and married Elizabeth Foster in Bendigo on May 1, 1875 & had a daughter Elizabeth Annia Munro. David Munro died as a result of a mining accident in Bendigo on June 25, 1856. If you know anything of this family, especially in Scotland, contact Don Brown on dmbrown33@impulse.net.au

Belinda Munro is trying to trace her grandfather Simon Fraser Munro who was born in Edinburgh in 1912. We don't know when he came to Australia but he married Myrtle Ivy Johnson on February 22, 1936 in Parkville, Victoria. They had 3 children; Annette, Dawn & Robert but not long after the 3rd child was born, Simon disappeared and the family has lost all trace of him. They know that he worked as a painter & as an orderly at the Prince Henry Hospital in Melbourne. His sister Jean married Roy Barber & they lived in Sydney. If you have any information on Simon contact Belinda on mprust@bigpond.net.au

The Golden Rule

A couple of years ago Eric Munro from Queensland wrote to me and mentioned applying the Golden Rule when trying to unite the various Scottish societies in Queensland. I did a bit of research & found the following article on the internet. If everyone applied the Golden Rule in their dealings with others, our world would be such a different place.

The golden rule is endorsed by all the great world religions and for many centuries the idea has been influential among people of very diverse cultures. These facts suggest that the golden rule may be an important moral truth.

Let's consider an example of how the rule is used. President Kennedy in 1963 appealed to the golden rule in an anti-segregation speech at the time of the first black enrolment at the University of Alabama. He asked whites to consider what it would be like to be treated as second class citizens because of skin colour. Whites were to imagine themselves being black - and being told that they couldn't vote, or go to the best public schools, or eat at most public restaurants, or sit in the front of the bus. Would whites be content to be treated that way? He was sure that they wouldn't - and yet this is how they treated others. He said the "heart of the question is ... whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated."

The golden rule is best interpreted as saying: "Treat others only in ways that you're willing to be treated in the same exact situation." To apply it, you'd imagine yourself in the exact place of the other person on the receiving end of the action. If you act in a given way toward another, and yet are unwilling to be treated that way in the same circumstances, then you violate the rule.

To apply the golden rule adequately, we need knowledge and imagination. We need to *know* what effect our actions have on the lives of others. And we need to be able to *imagine* ourselves, vividly and accurately, in the other person's place on the receiving end of the action. With knowledge, imagination, and the golden rule, we can progress far in our moral thinking.

The golden rule is best seen as a consistency principle. It doesn't replace regular moral norms. It isn't an infallible guide on which actions are right or wrong; it doesn't give all the answers. It only prescribes consistency - that we not have our actions (toward another) be out of harmony with our desires (toward a reversed situation action). It tests our moral coherence. If we violate the golden rule, then we're violating the spirit of fairness and concern that lie at the heart of morality.

The golden rule, with roots in a wide range of world cultures, is well suited to be a standard to which different cultures could appeal in resolving conflicts. As the world becomes more and more a single interacting global community, the need for such a common standard is becoming more urgent

The 2007 Gathering

Have a look at the Clan Munro website for an update of the Gathering details. Main thing is that the dinner on the Friday evening will be limited to 200 people with pre-paid tickets, so we will have to keep an eye on that – I have checked and details will be announced as soon as they come to hand - probably September/October.

Word of mouth is often the best way to find the best accommodation in an area. So if any of you has experienced good service, etc in places they have stayed around Foulis & Inverness – or in fact anywhere in Scotland, please let me know and I will make up a list to pass it on to those going to the Gathering and to anyone visiting Scotland.

I have had one unsolicited advert - Marian Grubb wrote to me offering accommodation. Check their websites for further information & also just type the hotel name in Google to find if there are any comments about the place. This is the address - Marian Grubb, The Richmond Hotel, Church Brae, Strathpeffer, Ross-shire IV14 9AW; Tel 01997 421300; email address info@richmondhighlandhotel.co.uk - Website www.richmondhighlandhotel.co.uk

Cynthia Mooney is looking at the possibility of arranging a tour of Munro country in conjunction with the Gathering. If this thought appeals to you contact me and I will put you in touch with Cynthia. At the moment it looks as if we have about fourteen members planning to go to the Gathering and we have still over a year to go, so the numbers can only grow – what a great get together that will be!

Australian Gatherings

Marjorie Rowlands tells me that we have been asked to participate in the Scottish Act of Remembrance with the massed pipes & drums in Sydney on Anzac Day, Tuesday 25th April 2006. I don't know if this is a new innovation but it is quite an honour and Andrew Gates will lay a wreath on behalf of the Munros at the Cenotaph. The Clans Wreath Party in highland dress will assemble at the corner of Bathurst & George Streets at 12 noon and other clan members are welcome to march behind the massed pipes & drums.

The Australian Gaelic Singers are again hosting their Gaelic Cultural Day and this will be on Sunday May 21st at Old Government House. It is called Autumn in the Highland Manor. This was a huge success last year and promises to be even better this year. Their fabulous draw card will be the amazing Diva of Gaelic Song, Ishbel MacAskill on tour from Scotland. The NSW Police Pipe Band will be there as will Chris Duncan who is the best Scottish Fiddler around and highland dancers will also entertain you. There will also be workshops for the frame drum (bodhran), penny whistle as well as the pipe chanter and kettle drum options this year. A whisky expert will be in attendance to answer any questions about the mysteries of Single Malts and The National Trust has promised that food and tea and coffee will be absolutely flowing this year! Sounds like a great day out & I am pretty sure that we will be represented in the Scottish House tent by Marjorie & her faithful Munro family.

On Sunday the 2nd of April Bet & I met new members Gayle & David Munro for the first time when we attended the annual Combined Clans Picnic at the lovely Kings Park venue. The weather was good to us and we spent a pleasant day there in the company of the Clans Donnachaidh, Keith, MacKay, MacLean, MacLeod & Scott. The unthinkable happened as Bet & I managed to win one of the raffle prizes – a lovely big jar of Bindoon honey donated by the Clan MacKay! I was resplendent in my new Culloden/Ghillie shirt made for me by Queensland member Kathryn Brain. Check the next newsletter for Kathryn & Greg's new adventure.

Clan Munro (Association) Australia Newsletter

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