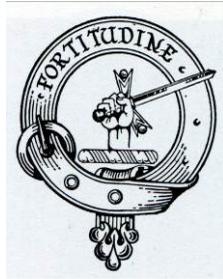


*The Clan MacRae Society
of
Australia and New Zealand
Newsletter*



www.clanmacrae.org.au

Message from Clan MacRae President



Welcome again to the Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand Newsletter. Our last issue was despatched to some members via email, as you can now request your copy via email. For those not on email newsletters will be posted as in the past. If you have supplied, or intend to supply your email address you will also get the extra reminders, information and updates between newsletters, the latter done three times a year.

Please send any news items – weddings, vales, gathering events, interesting historic family stories, complete with a 1MB (minimum) photo/s to either PO Box 151, Bathurst, NSW 2795 or email amcrae@lisp.com.au If you're not sure about an item being suitable just email me.

We have been looking at the possibility of having some meetings using teleconferencing to save everyone travelling all the way to Sydney. After holding a 'test' our next 'meeting' to be held on Wednesday 18th October and our first teleconference meeting. This means anyone can 'take part' from home. **To take part the details are at the top of page 3 of this newsletter.**

Remember - you can also send me your email address to change over to having your **newsletters emailed directly to you** each issue. This mean you receive it sooner and it will keep printing and postage costs down so memberships won't need to go up.

Thanks to Sue Tregoweth for the New Zealand news.

Have you been to the Society's website lately where you can also view various reports, upcoming events and read the stories on the Clan MacRae's website at www.clanmacrae.org.au **Alan McRae. President**

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome to four new members since our last newsletter:

- Ross McRae – Loomberah NSW
- Ms Jennifer McRae – Toukley NSW
- John Ray – Charlestown NSW
- Mrs Anne Schinkel – Garden Suburb NSW.

Congratulations to Mrs. Mary Magdalen Sillis (nee McRae) who celebrated her 95th Birthday on 29th May, 2017.

NEXT ORDINARY CLAN MEETING – VIA TELECONFERENCE



The Executive invites all interested members to take part in a teleconference for the Ordinary Meeting on 18th October at 1pm (NSW time).

All you need to do is **at 1pm (NSW time) on Wednesday 18th October,**

Please Dial: (02) 8077 0506

When prompted enter access code: 799719 followed by the # key.

You will then be greeted by either our President Alan or Roslyn and after a short period, allowing all interested members to connect, we will start the meeting.

For our valued New Zealand members, you can participate by dialling: **+64 6-928 7532.**

See the notice included with this newsletter for more details.

We look forward to speaking with you.

Roslyn MacRae, Hon. Secretary, Ph: 0412 291 054 E: learn@vsr.com.au

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UPCOMING EVENTS – AUSTRALIA

16th September 2017 – Saturday - Clans on the Coast Gathering at Tomaree Sports Complex, No. 1 Oval, Nelson Bay. Info 0418 495 336 or www.clansonthecoast.com

7th October 2017, Saturday - Canberra Highland Gathering will be held at Kett Street Oval, Kambah, Canberra. Info: www.canberragathering.com.au

15th October 2017 –Saturday - Illawarra Scottish Fair, Wollongong, NSW

18th October 2017 - Wednesday – Clan MacRae ordinary meeting via teleconference at 1pm. See details above.

27th January 2018, Saturday Quirindi Military Tattoo.

16th – 18th February 2018, Clan MacRae 30th Anniversary Gathering, Dinner and AGM at Hovell Tree Inn, Albury – see details next page.

7th April 2018 – Saturday - Bundanoon Highland Gathering, Bundanoon, Info: www.brigadoon.org.au

UPCOMING EVENTS – NEW ZEALAND

4th November 2017, *7th Hororata Highland Games*, Hororata Domain Hororata.

11th November 2017, *16th Upper Hutt Highland Gathering*, Harcourt Park, Upper Hutt.

18th November 2017, *42nd Auckland Highland Games*, Ellerslie Racecourse, Ellerslie

9th December 2017, *37th Jenny Mair Highland Square Day*, Palmerston North.

1st January 2018, *147th Waipu Highland Games*, Caledonian Park, Waipu

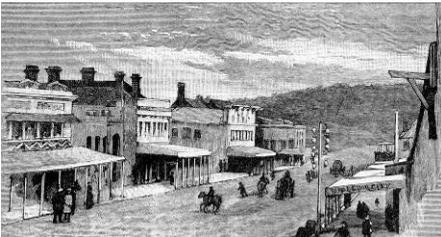
20th January 2018, *142nd Waimate Caledonian Games*, Victoria Park, Waimate

27th January 2018, *154th Turakina Highland Games*, Turakina Domain, Turakina.

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30th ANNIVERSARY CLAN MACRAE GATHERING, DINNER & AGM AT ALBURY - 2018

Friday 16th - Saturday 17th - Sunday 18th FEBRUARY 2018



You are invited to the Clan MacRae Gathering and AGM to be held at Albury NSW on Friday 16th, Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th February 2018. We hope lots of Clan members, family, friends and all interested MacRaes will join us for a weekend of

all things “MacRae”. You don’t need to be a member to attend.

Itinerary for Weekend

Friday - 7.30pm – until not too late - **Meet & Greet @ SS&A Club**

Saturday - 9.30am – 3.30pm - **Historic Bus Tour of Beechworth & Yackandandah**

Saturday afternoon - 4.30pm – 6pm - **Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand AGM**

Saturday evening - 7.00pm for 7.30pm – late – **Clan MacRae Gathering Dinner**

Sunday - 10.00am – 12 noon - **Guided Historic Tour of Albury.**

Contact: Roslyn MacRae Ph:0412 291 054 Em: learn@vsr.com.au

**NOTE – FURTHER DETAILS & BOOKING SHEET
ACCOMPANY THIS NEWSLETTER.**

Mrs McRae has spent many hundreds of hours writing submissions and lobbying against the demolition or inappropriate alteration of many heritage buildings in both Devonport and Auckland. She has advocated for buildings to be added to heritage protection schedules, developed a North Shore Historic Heritage Strategy and spoken on the effect on Devonport of the proposed Auckland wharf extension. She is best known for her work as co-chair and spokesperson for the Victoria Theatre Trust, established to save and restore the 1912 Victoria Theatre, the earliest purpose-built cinema still in existence in the Southern Hemisphere. Mrs McRae's own writing and filmmaking skills have documented various local events of historical interest, including the restoration of the St James Theatre, and the restoration of houses in Devonport and Takapuna.

NEW ZEALAND QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS 2017

Ms Gair McRae received The Queen's Service Medal for services to theatre and youth. Ms Gair McRae has taught drama to the children and youth of Huntly, Maraetai, St Heliers, Bucklands Beach and Howick for more than 50 years.

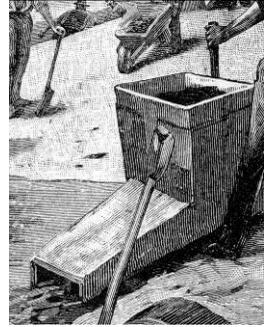
Ms McRae established the Huntly Children's Theatre in 1962 as a young primary school teacher. She then started teaching Drama from her Howick home and at the Howick Little Theatre Youth group. In 1966 she completed her Speech and Drama Teacher's qualifications at the University of Toronto, Canada and in the late 1970's a B.A. in English and History and a Drama Diploma at Auckland University. In 1969 she established the Bucklands Beach Children's Theatre. Her belief in the importance of providing children with quality performance experiences often saw her self-fund props, running costs and hall hire. She later established Uxbridge Children's and Youth Theatre, which became the Howick Children's and Youth Theatre (HCYT) when she secured council-owned premises where to operate. She is a Life Member of the HCYT and has taught thousands of children over the years. More than 500 students aged between 5 and 21 years attend HCYT classes each week and Ms McRae remains involved in teaching classes. She has been teaching for over 40 years.

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CLAN MACRAE AT 2017 BERRY CELTIC FESTIVAL

Allan Smith, Vice President of the Clan MacRae Society, attended the Eleventh Annual Berry Celtic Festival which was held at the Berry Showground in New South Wales on Saturday the 27rd May, 2017. The town of Berry was named after the Berry family of Coolangatta fame with the

Duncan migrated to Canada in the 1840s. He then moved to California after gold was discovered there, becoming a “49er” and learning the skill of sluice mining. After not having much luck and running into trouble with the locals he decided to depart for Australia when gold was discovered. He possibly worked as a deckhand on the vessel ‘Europe’ which sailed from San Francisco 1st July, 1852. They had a very torrid journey running out of food part way into the journey with all on board arriving in Sydney in a half starved condition on 21st September. Also on board was David Syme, future owner of “The Age” newspaper in Melbourne, with whom he went on to have a lasting friendship.



Duncan boarded a steamer for Melbourne, alighting at Two Fold Bay on the east coast of NSW and made his way through the Monaro to Beechworth. There he was approached to head a syndicate for hydraulic sluice mining at Omeo in Victoria and starting the Pioneer Claim in 1853. David Syme was a member of the syndicate along with fellow “49ers” - Edward D’Arcy Fitzgerald, George Hamilton and Jessie Simmons. The Pioneer Company worked the gold claim for 25 years from 1856 - 1881, before deciding to sell it to a Chinese Co-operative who continued to work the workings.



Duncan (left) married Ann Tallmash, a domestic servant from Omeo, in 1859 and went on to have seven children. When his eldest daughter married Ned Johnson, Duncan became involved in Ned’s bullocky business which Ned had taken on after the death of his father Sam, the ex-convict. In the 1890s their bullocks were shot in a dispute with the Transport Union which had started around that time. They tried to recover their costs but lost the court case.

He also had small farming interests. Between 1895 and 1897 Duncan was involved in a court case where he sued the Omeo Colonial Bank branch manager McDermid for perjury and forgery of his signature on a mortgage document.

Duncan being illiterate, eventually lost the land, around 320 acres to the bank but won compensation. Unfortunately the payout was far less than the cost of

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Membership is due in January

Cost is \$15 per annum or \$45 for three years – Payable to the Treasurer

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