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 means 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

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

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.


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.**
GENEROUS DONATION TO THE SOCIETY

Tom Brown, our Treasurer, has advised that the Clan has been fortunate to receive a very generous donation from the Armidale McRae group - a cheque for $1,005 being a donation from the group set up to administer the celebration of John and Mary Anne McLennan McRae’s arrival in Australia in 1853 and the sesquicentenary of this event in 2003. The two administrators of the funds Richard Mills and Max Browning of Armidale have distributed the remaining funds by setting some funds aside to pay for the continued maintenance of the cemetery at Kilcoy and the remainder of the money has been donated to the Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand.

IN LOVING MEMORY

We are saddened to hear of the passing of several of our members. Please accept our sincere sympathy to their partners, family and friends.

VALE - Lynn Audrey RAE (nee Cunningham), passed away peacefully at the Otago Community Hospice, Dunedin, New Zealand on Wednesday 15th February, 2017, aged 70 years, after a 14 month fight with cancer. Our belated thoughts go to our South Island, New Zealand representative Ian Rae on the passing of a much loved wife and mother to their children Nikki, Rebecca and Scott. Loved Seanmhair of seven. Ian, Lynn and their 3 children joined the New Zealand group in Scotland in 2000 when we attended the Clan MacRae Gathering in Edinburgh and at Eilean Donan Castle.

VALE - Dorothy Isabel MAHON (nee Gawith), passed away peacefully in New Zealand surrounded by her family on 7th April, 2017, aged 92 years. Our thoughts go to her children Justine, Antony, David & Timothy. Adored “Dothy” to her 12 grandchildren. Dorothy (Doth) was enrolled at the University of Auckland Architecture School in 1938 and became a registered Architect in 1964 and was a member of the NZIA throughout her career and into retirement. Doth loved to travel. She was also on our tour to the 2000 Gathering at Eilean Donan Castle accompanying her sister Molly Akers.

VALE - Peter Desmond MCRAE. He was born Wellington 14 January, 1933, and passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family at Whakatane in the eastern Bay of Plenty in New Zealand on 18th June 2017. Our thoughts are with his wife Leonie, children Mary Jane and Ann. Loved grandfather of seven, great grandfather of one.

VALE – Our New Zealand representative, Sue Tregowarth, lost her mother who passed away on the 8th July, 2017, after losing her 6 year battle with
Melanoma.

**VALE** - Jeanette Effie RENNIE died on Wednesday 16/8/2017. She was the beloved wife of Philip and the loving mother to Sandra, Carolyn (deceased) and Susan. Jeanette was nanny of Jayden, Elishia, Aaron, Jessica and Shani. Jeanette’s service took place at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium at North Ryde on Tuesday 22nd August, 2017, at 12.15pm.

NEW ZEALAND McRAE’S NEW YEAR HONOURS 2017

**Felicitations to Professor Donald Malcolm McRae** on his receiving the Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the State and international law. Professor Donald McRae is a legal scholar and practitioner specialising in international law at the University of Ottawa, Canada, who routinely advises governments, including the New Zealand Government, on international legal issues. He was born in Napier, New Zealand in 1944 and has previously been Professor of Law at the University of British Columbia. Professor McRae was made a Companion of the Order of Canada in 2014.

Professor McRae is an elected member of the United Nations International Law Commission and an Associate Member of the Institut de Droit International. He was an advisor to the New Zealand Government in connection with its successful maritime boundary negotiations with Australia between 2000 and 2005. Over the past two decades as Legal Counsel to the New Zealand Government as he contributed significantly to successful outcomes for New Zealand in five separate trade disputes before the World Trade Organisation. In 2013 he provided legal advice to New Zealand in ‘Whaling in the Antarctic (Australia v. Japan), New Zealand Intervening’, a case heard before the International Court of Justice. Most recently he has provided expert advice to the Crown on the scope of the Treaty of Waitangi exception in relation to the Claim to the Waitangi Tribunal regarding the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement. Professor McRae has published extensively in the field of international law and is on the editorial board of numerous international legal publications, and was the founding Editor-in-Chief of the Otago Law Review.

**Congratulations to Mrs. Margaret Jane (Margot) McRae** on receiving The Queen’s Service Medal for services to heritage preservation. Mrs Margot McRae is highly-regarded as a spokesperson on heritage issues and has been involved with preserving and enhancing the heritage of Devonport and Auckland for the past 20 years.
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.

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 27th May, 2017. The town of Berry was named after the Berry family of Coolangatta fame with the
Berrys being part of Clan Forbes.

We were blessed with a bright, sunny, dry day, with warm temperatures for late autumn. The Guest of the day was Alwyn Piggott, President of the Manx Society of N.S.W. The featured Celts this year were the Isle of Man.

The day commenced at 9.30 a.m. with the Grand Street Parade through the streets of Berry featuring all the distinctive colourful kilts and the pipe bands along with the various Celtic Clans, Scottish terrier dogs, vintage cars and hot rods.

The Festival was opened by the Mayor of the City of Shoalhaven, Amanda Finlay. She was supported by Gareth Ward, MP, State Member for Kiama, Ann Sudmalis MP, Federal Member for Gilmore, Malcolm Nicholson, Lieutenant to the Chief, Clan Nicholson and Alwyn Piggott.

We had the delight of catching up with an old friend, Margaret McKay (left). At 84 years old, she participated in the Grand Parade in Berry carrying her Clan banner. We first met Margaret over 20 years ago when we attended the Scottish dances at Bankstown and she is still actively involved. Her other interests include “The Friends of Rookwood” at the Hub, Scottish House (which is in the process of closing down), RIP - Rookwood in Profile, Masonic Widows (The Merry Widows), and Lynwood McCreedy House for special needs girls. She still lives in the same house in suburban Sydney since 1954 which she built with her husband, Alan. They had 3 children.

There were fifteen Clans represented on the day adding to the pageantry of the event. Note – See fuller report on our website www.clanmacrae.org.au

CLAN MACRAE AT ABERDEEN HIGHLAND GAMES 2017

The Aberdeen Highland Games were again held on Saturday 1st July, 2017, at Jefferson Park in Aberdeen, NSW. They have become Aberdeen's most spectacular event, drawing thousands of people to the township every year to enjoy the festivities. The Games began with a spectacular parade of bands, clan representatives and others that leads into the Massed Band Salute and
Chieftain’s Address that officially opens the day. Clan MacRae was represented at the Highland Games by Roslyn and Colin MacRae, Ray & Judy Hynes, John Rae, Jenny McRae and a number of others who visited the Clan tent during the day.

The games had a full day of events including Highland and country dancing and music, Pipe Band displays, strong man events with the Tartan Warriors, as well as state and interstate tug-of-war teams, egg tosses, three-legged races and the Kilted Dash. Many stalls provided food along with various Scottish and Celtic displays.

ANNUAL SHERIFFMUIR COMMEMORATION IN SCOTLAND
Saturday 18th November 2017

Clan MacRae members gather each year to remember the many clansmen who fell on 13th November, 1715, at Sheriffmuir. The nearest Saturday falls on Armistice Day so Clan members will gather at the Clan MacRae monument on Saturday, 18th November at 12 noon to avoid clashing with Armistice Day ceremonies. A wreath of Jacobite Roses is laid at the monument, during the ceremony. Those who attend retire to the Sheriffmuir Inn afterwards for lunch and companionship. Should any members be planning a trip to Scotland at this time, please note the date. Those attending are asked to advise Secretary Jim McRae at secretary@clan-macrae.org.uk

DUNCAN McCRAE - THE SAILOR

Duncan was born in Ross Shire, Scotland, in 1829 to Murdoch McCrae, Shipowner, and Mary McLennan. They lived in Applecross on the west coast and thus had a history of being a sailor.
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 “49’ers” - 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
the lengthy case. It was during this court case that when under examination, Duncan denied telling a couple of locals when he was drunk that as a sailor he had been on a slaver. To escape a government vessel from discovering the cargo, they were put overboard.

Duncan lost more money in the Bank Crashes of the 1890s so the family struggled for a number of years. Duncan died on the 23rd June, 1911, aged 82 with cause of death determined as senile debility. A plumed horse drawn hearse was used to convey his body for burial in the Omeo Cemetery. *Information thanks to Jane Orr about her great grandfather.*

GRANDMA McRAE’S THISTLE SUGAR BOWL

This ornate silver plate sugar bowl is decorated in the form of the famous Scottish thistle. Used by Alice and Frank McRae of Uralla it has been handed down through the McRae family and is now owned by Alan McRae. Alice also had a toaster rack and a dinner table accoutrements set comprising salt, pepper and mustard, complete with miniature spoon, all in the same design.

Scotland embraced the thorny purple thistle as their emblem during Alexander III’s reign (1249 -1286). The thistle was first used in the design of James III’s coinage in 1470.

Folk lore tells of Norwegian King Haakon’s army who intended to defeat the Scots and disembarked at the Coast of Largs under cover of darkness, in order to take the sleeping Scottish by surprise. The invading Norsemen had been ordered to remove their shoes as it would be quieter however as they neared the Scots one of King Haakon’s men stood on one of the spiky thistles and let out a shriek which warned the clansmen. Alerted in time the Scots were able to fight off the Norwegians.

Alan McRae, FAIHA, President and Newsletter Editor.
OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 2017

President
Mr. Alan McRae, F.I.A.H.A.
P.O Box 151, Bathurst. N.S.W. 2795 Ph. (H) 02 6331 5404 Email amcrae@lisp.com.au

Vice-President
Mr. Allan Smith
PO Box 191, Vincentia. N.S.W. 2540. Ph. 02 4441 8122 Email allansmith8b@outlook.com

Treasurer
Mr. Thomas Brown
23 Pages Lane, Kingswood, Tamworth. N.S.W. 2340 Ph. 6762 4232 Email tnjbrown1@bigpond.com

Secretary
Roslyn MacRae
2513 Mitchell Highway, Vittoria NSW 2795 6368 7284 Fax 63687206 Email learn@vsr.com.au

Assistant Secretary
Mrs. Jenny Brown
23 Pages Lane, Kingswood, Tamworth. N.S.W. 2340 Ph. 6762 4232 Email tnjbrown1@bigpond.com

Newsletter Editor
Mr. Alan McRae, F.I.A.H.A.
P.O Box 151, Bathurst. N.S.W. 2795 Ph. (H) 02 6331 5404 Email amcrae@lisp.com.au

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

New Zealand (North Island)
Mrs. Sue Tregoweth
P.O. Box 374. Te Kuiti 3941 N.Z. Ph. 07 8786642 A.H. Fax (International 64 7) 07 8788291 Email sue.treg1@gmail.com

New Zealand (South Island)
Mr. Ian Rae
7 Ellie Place, Lake Hawea, RD2, Wanaka N.Z. 9382 Ph. 03 4436906 Email ianjrae@xtra.co.nz

New South Wales (Southern District)
Mr. Mark McRae
7 Merriman Place, Murrumbateman N.S.W. 2582 Ph. 02 62275739

Victoria
Mrs. Flora McRae
“Kintail”, 1A Jones Street, St Arnaud. Victoria 3478 Ph. 03 54952124

Western Australia
Mr. Brian McRae
18 Marimba Crescent, City Beach, Western Australia 6015 Ph. 08 9385 8115

South Australia
Ms. Jane Reath-Oliver
c/- Post Office, Callington. South Australia 5254 Ph. 08 8538 5058 E.

Membership is due in January
Cost is $15 per annum or $45 for three years – Payable to the Treasurer

Mr. Thomas Brown
23 Pages Lane, Kingswood, Tamworth. N.S.W. 2340 Ph. 6762 4232 Email tnjbrown1@bigpond.com