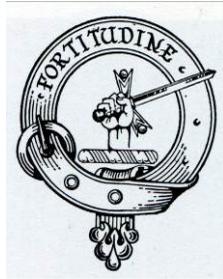


*The Clan MacRae Society  
of  
Australia and New Zealand Inc  
Newsletter*



[www.clanmacrae.org.au](http://www.clanmacrae.org.au)

**Volume 32 - September 2019**



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome to our new members since our last newsletter:

Ms Mary Choate – Mitcham in SA

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## CLAN MACRAE REUNION, GATHERING, DINNER & AGM AT BATHURST NSW 2020

**You are invited to the Clan MacRae Reunion, Gathering, Dinner and AGM in Bathurst, NSW, on Friday 14th, Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th February 2020.**

**We hope lots of Clan members, family, friends, acquaintances and all interested MacRaes will join us for a weekend of all things “MacRae”.**

**Non-members very welcome. Book yourselves in early.**

### Weekend Itinerary

**Friday 11.00am** – Pioneers’ Wall, Stanley Street, bottom William Street, Bathurst. Unveiling of plaque to the Lewin family (ancestors of Alan McRae). Stay for lunch (bring own) with other McRaes.

**3.00pm – 5.00pm** - Genealogy Workshop, Senior Citizens Centre, near the CWA Hall, 172 Russell Street Bathurst. Hosted by Bathurst Family History Group. Includes afternoon tea. Cost: \$20

**7.30pm – late** - Meet & Greet at “132 Piper Bistro”, Panthers Club, 132 Piper Street Bathurst. Come along and make yourself known to the other MacRaes. Enjoy a meal in the Bistro (meal from menu & drinks @ own expense)

**Saturday - 9.00am – 3.30pm** - Historic Bus Tour of Hill End and “History Hill” Museum & Underground Mine. Leaving in bus from rear car park of MacDonald’s, Durham Street. Cost: \$70.00 pp for bus, guided tour of History Hill, morning tea, lunch and guided bus tour of Hill End

**4.30pm – 5.30pm** - Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand 2020 AGM. Macquarie Room, (downstairs) Panthers Bathurst 132 Piper Street Bathurst. All welcome.

**7.00pm for 7.30pm – late** - Gathering Dinner in Panorama Room, (upstairs has lift) Panthers 132 Piper Street Bathurst. Cost: \$75 per person – 3 course meal, Scottish dancers & Pipes & Drum Band

**Sunday - 12 noon – 3pm** - Visit to Abercrombie House, 311 Ophir Rd,

Bathurst. Includes admission, guided tour, lunch, self-guided tour afterwards. Cost \$33.00 per person.

*See fuller details on booking forms. For extra copies email our secretary on [learn@vsr.com.au](mailto:learn@vsr.com.au) or [amcrae@lisp.com.au](mailto:amcrae@lisp.com.au) Be sure to book early to assist in organising the event.*

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## 2019 – 2020 UPCOMING EVENTS – AUSTRALIA

**21st September** – Saturday - *Clans On The Coast*, Nelson Bay, NSW. A great day with everything from Scottish Pipe Bands, Celtic band, Variety and Celtic Stalls, Caber Toss, Tug-Of-War, Celtic Dancers, Highland Dancers, Irish Dancers, Dog Parade, Rusty Harper, Irish Folk Band Vanguard, Medieval fighting demonstrations and more at Tomaree Sports Complex, 4981 Nelson Bay Rd. Info: Ron Swan on 0418 495 336 or [www.clansonthecoast.com.au](http://www.clansonthecoast.com.au)

**12th October** – Saturday - *Canberra Highland Gathering, Kambah District Playing Fields, Kett Street, Canberra, ACT*. Massed bagpipe bands will compete in the ACT pipe band championship. Highland dancers will compete in the Canberra City Championship. Other music types throughout the day, historical re-enactments, Tartan Warriors, lots of stalls.

[www.canberragathering.com.au](http://www.canberragathering.com.au)

**17th October – 19th October** - *The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo – Sydney 2019*. Greatest show on earth with more than 1200 performers from around the world. The esplanade of the Edinburgh Castle will be erected at ANZ Stadium in Sydney's Olympic Park precinct. Further info:

[www.edinburghtattoosydney.com.au](http://www.edinburghtattoosydney.com.au)

**3rd November – Sunday** - *Central Coast Scottish Spectacular* will be held in Gosford. This Scottish Highland Gathering will be held at The Entertainment Ground and will feature the NSW Pipe Band Championships, and the Central Coast Scottish National Dancing Titles. Pipe bands, Drum Majors, the Tossing of the Caber, Tug Of War, Scottish stalls, food, and much more.

**14th - 16th February, 2020** - *Clan MacRae Reunion and Gathering 2020* will take place in Bathurst over the weekend. See further detail in this newsletter on page 3 and 4 so be sure to book early to confirm numbers.

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## 2019 – 2020 UPCOMING EVENTS – NEW ZEALAND

**9th November** – Saturday - Hororata Highland Games, Hororata Domain, Canterbury. Highland dancing, pipe band, solo piping & drum competitions, tug o war, amateur heavy events training day, junior warriors interschool

competitions. More information on [www.hororata.org.nz](http://www.hororata.org.nz)

**16th November** - Saturday - Auckland Highland Games, Ellerslie Event Centre, Ellerslie. Pipe band, solo piping, & drum competitions, mock battles between Scots & Romans/Norsemen, clan society tents, sales stalls, traditional Scottish games & dancing. [www.ahg.org.nz](http://www.ahg.org.nz)

**1st January 2020** - 148th Waipu Highland Games, Caledonian Park, Main Road, Waipu. Events include, heavy weight competitions, piping & drumming, Scottish dancing, tug of war, tartan in the park, mock battles, Clan stalls. [www.waipugames.co.nz](http://www.waipugames.co.nz)

**25th January 2020** – Saturday - 156th Turakina Highland Games, Turakina Domain, Cameron Road, Turakina. Solo piping & drumming, Highland & national dancing, Scottish Official Board Highland dancing, pipe band contest and traditional field events. Featuring the NZ Open Solo Piping Championships. [www.turakinahighlandgames.co.nz](http://www.turakinahighlandgames.co.nz)

**26th January 2020** - Sunday - Ashburton's Festival of Pipe Band Music, the Domain, Ashburton. Ashburton's annual music festival beginning with a street march at 12.30pm, followed by Medleys & Sets

**8th February 2020** – Saturday - 27th Paeroa Highland Games & Tattoo, Paeroa Domain, Paeroa. The sounds and soul of Scotland gather at Paeroa for their annual Highland Games. Whether there is a bit of Scot in you or not this is a great day of entertainment for young and old. [www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz](http://www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz)

**15th – 16th February 2020** – Saturday & Sunday - Octagonal Day & Street March, The Octagon, Dunedin. Piping event.

**13th – 14th March 2020** – Friday & Saturday - Royal New Zealand Pipe Band Association Championships, Invercargill. Details of the contest will follow in due course.

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**Bathurst**, the location for Clan MacRae Reunion and Gathering in February 2020, has many historic old houses and businesses. As the oldest inland city, and over 200 years old, it is a fascinating place to visit. Be sure to book your accommodation early for the reunion as we know of another

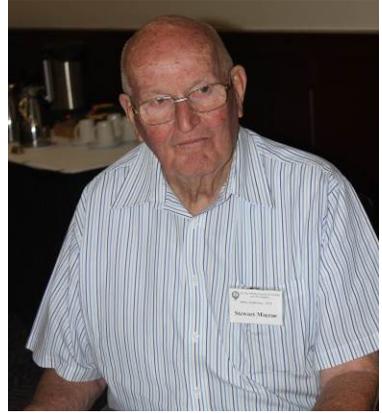
function on in the city at the same time.





year. Elaine Strong attended the funeral and wore the lovely shawl she won as a prize at Albury. Stewart and wife Margaret had a great weekend at Albury.

Stewart MacRae was President of the local Probus Club, and also secretary of the Holbrook Miniature Railway, of which Colin Strong is President. Stewart loved trains, and has given Colin two boxes of train books which will be put into the local railway station so all members can borrow them.

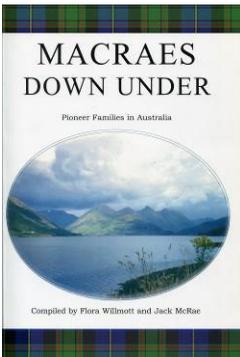


Stewart had only visited the train two weeks before he died – it runs every second Sunday - and we stood in the sun for a while talking to him and his son Andrew, who was talking about his upcoming trip to Scotland where he was to stay in one of the cottages near Eilean Donan Castle for a few days. We were very envious! He left on the Sunday, and his father died that night, but Stewart had told him that he had to go. From Elaine Strong.

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Elma MacRae has advised us that **Flora MacRae** of St Arnaud in Victoria (member No. 17) passed away on 15th July, 2019. Flora's husband Rodney has been placed into care. A report is expected for our next newsletter.

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### MACRAES DOWN UNDER - SEEKING UPDATES

It's been just on 10 years since 'MacRaes Down Under' (MDU) was published and I am now seeking updates and corrections.

For those who are unfamiliar with MDU, it is a reference book on pioneer MacRae families in Australia. It records the arrival in Australia of all MacRae families along with their descendants and information on where they emigrated from. In many cases, there is a direct link back to the History of the Clan MacRae written by Rev. Alexander MacRae (published in 1899). Once this link is established, genealogies can be traced back for many centuries.

MDU sought to continue the work of Rev. Alexander MacRae and was based on 20 years of research coordinated by Flora Willmott of Brisbane (my Aunt)

and Jack McRae of Melbourne. I edited and published MDU in 2007 but there have been no further updates. With regard to the collection of genealogies, both Flora and Jack have now passed on so I have decided to take up the baton.

When the book was first published, I did receive a number of updates from various family members but I am sure that there are others. I would now like to gather all additions/changes before issuing a full list of updates. Interestingly, this has a pleasing symmetry with the Errata booklet that Rev. Alexander MacRae published in 1910. He took a decade after the original Clan History was published in 1899 so you can see that I am in good company.

If you have an update of comment to make on MDU, please send to me at [clanbook@mcraeit.com.au](mailto:clanbook@mcraeit.com.au) Ideally, I would prefer updates in Word format and using the existing numbering system where possible.

**John Richard McRae, Camberwell, 03 98822 776, 0414 627 230**

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### **HIDDEN TREASURE**

*From Folk Tales of the Highlands, by Gregor Ian Smith  
& Alasdair Alpin MacGregor*

There is a tradition that in the Feadan Mor, or Great Chanter, a gully situated on the West of Sutherland, there lies concealed a hogshead of gold said to have been sent from France to finance the arduous under-taking of the Jacobites during “the Forty-five.”

The hogshead was consigned to a certain Duncan MacRae. Duncan was endowed with the second-sight and forby he had the faculty of rendering invisible both persons and objects when he did not wish them to be seen. So as to ensure the safe custody of the hogshead of gold, Duncan and a couple of his confederates conveyed it to the fastnesses of the Feadan Mor. There they buried it, hoping that, if one day Prince Charlie should happen to find himself in this part of Sutherland, it might be of service to him.

But Prince Charlie never came this way. And, so, to this day, they say in the north of Scotland, the hogshead of gold lies buried in the Feadan Mor. Now Duncan put a spell on the hogshead – a spell that made it invisible to the human eye except for a brief moment once in seven years. Somewhere about 1845 – just a century after Duncan had concealed this treasure – a crofter woman sat watching her cows, as they grazed in the vicinity of the Feadan Mor.



As she sat, she spun; and, as she spun, she suddenly noticed by her side part of a hogshead projecting from the ground. Believing that at long last the buried treasure of “the Forty-Five had become visible once more, she drove her distaff into the ground beside the hogshead, in order the more readily to identify the position, and then

hasten to her native village to inform the neighbours of her discovery.

In great excitement the villagers now followed her to the Feadan Mor. But on returning there with them, she could locate neither the hogshead nor her distaff. Both had vanished, for, though Duncan MacRae had been dead long since, his power of rendering things invisible still pervaded the Feadan Mor, and maintained the hogshead under spell.

And, so, to this day the treasure sent from France to assist the cause of a hapless Prince lies among the wilds of Sutherland.

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## **GLENFINNAN MONUMENT**

Another historical place to visit in Scotland is the Glenfinnan Monument which marks the beginning of the 1745 rising by the Jacobite clansmen, with this iconic monument honouring the fallen. The monument is framed by spectacular Highland scenery at the head of Loch Shiel.

It all began in the early afternoon on Monday 19th August, 1745, when a tiny row boat landed at the north end of Loch Shiel. On board was Prince Charles Edward Stuart, or “Bonnie Prince Charlie”, who was there to meet his escort of MacDonalds. Then the party later retired to a nearby barn to await responses to letters from supporters all over the Highlands.



More MacDonalds arrived to help Bonnie Prince Charlie to challenge for his father's right to the thrones of Scotland and England. Then from the north the noise of bagpipes approached with some 1,000 Clan Cameron's men, followed by another three hundred Macdonnells.



Charles Edward Stuart, left, considered that he had enough men to proceed. The Prince then ordered brandy to be given to all Jacobite clansmen that arrived. Little did the Prince know his ideas would end in bloody failure at Culloden on 16th April, 1746, less than eight months later, though Charles had come very close indeed to taking the crowns he sought.

The Prince's Jacobite army set out to Derby arriving on 6th December, 1745. With the Hanoverian court in disarray and packing belongings onto ships in the Thames, if

Charles advanced George II would probably have fled, leaving Charles' father as James VIII of Scotland and III of England.

Bonnie Prince Charlie's ended up spending more time than he intended in western Scotland. Before raising his standard at Glenfinnan, Charlie had initially landed on Eriskay in the Western Isles. He then landed on the mainland in Loch nan Uamh, near Lochailort some miles west of Glenfinnan, before making his way there by a roundabout route.

Whilst evading the Government troops searching for him the Prince passed Culloden several times. With a vast reward of £30,000 placed on his head his supporters were certainly loyal not to claim the fortune.

By the early 1800s the Jacobite threat had receded sufficiently to allow for the erection of a monument to mark the raising of the standard at Glenfinnan. It was financed by a wealthy descendant of a Jacobite. The stone tower surmounted by a statue of a kilted highlander. The monument was made possible by the construction in 1812 by Thomas Telford of the road from Fort William to Arisaig, which passed Glenfinnan as its successor does today.

**BE SURE TO BOOK EARLY – for the 14th - 16th February, 2020 –  
Clan MacRae Reunion and Gathering 2020 at Bathurst over this  
weekend. See further detail in this newsletter.**

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**South Australia**

**No South Australia representative at present – any volunteers?**

**Membership is due in January**

Cost is \$15 per annum – Payable to the Treasurer

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