

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

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

**Volume 37 - January 2022**

## Message from Clan MacRae President



Welcome to our volume 37 for January 2022 and we are still affected by the COVID viruses. We had intended to hold our Annual General Meeting at Yass in February, however the emergence of new strains and the possible introduction of more conditions by the Government are the reasons for the change back to our usual teleconference. We will try for Yass next year.

A number of gatherings and social occasions have been listed in this newsletter, however you should contact organisers to confirm that the event is going

ahead.

**REMEMBER** - You are cordially invited to ring in on Wednesday 16th February beginning at 7.30pm for the 34th Annual General Meeting of the Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand to be held via teleconference. Instructions will be emailed with this newsletter and they are also in the 2022 'Upcoming Events' in this newsletter below.

Be sure to check out the Clan MacRae Website from time to time to see the changes on [www.clanmacrae.org.au](http://www.clanmacrae.org.au)

Our new cover image of Eilean Donan Castle has come from member and family researcher Sue Catterall and her husband Ross.

**Alan MacRae - President**

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND CONGRATULATIONS

There are no new members since our last newsletter.

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## 2022 UPCOMING EVENTS – AUSTRALIA

**16th February – Wednesday - Clan MacRae Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting by teleconference beginning at 7.30pm. You are cordially invited to ring in for the 34th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLAN MACRAE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.**

**Teleconference details** - All you need to do is at 7.30pm (NSW time) on Wednesday 16th February, please: Dial: (02) 8077 0506 – further instructions on the next page.

When prompted enter the access code: 799719 followed by the # key. You will then be greeted and after a short period, allowing all interested members to connect, the meeting will begin. For our valued New Zealand members, you can participate by dialling: +64 6-928 7532.

**20th March – Sunday - The Melbourne Highland Games and Celtic Festival (previously the Ringwood Highland Games)** will be held at Eastfield Park, Croydon. Further information is available via their Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MelbourneHighlandGames/>, or Melbourne Highland Games website <https://melbournehighlandgames.org.au/>

**2nd April – Saturday - Bundanoon Highland Gathering** at Bundanoon. Australia's largest Scottish gathering with pipe bands, entertainment, Clans, dancers, parade and stalls in the beautiful NSW Southern Highlands. Info: [www.brigadoon.org.au](http://www.brigadoon.org.au)

**15th and 16th April – Friday and Saturday - Maclean Highland Gathering at Maclean.** Hear the stirring sounds of the pipes and drums and a variety of solo competitions. Highland dancing, Scottish stalls and more at Maclean Showground. Info: [www.macleanhIGHLANDgathering.com.au](http://www.macleanhIGHLANDgathering.com.au)

**28th April – 1st May - Thursday to Sunday - Australian Celtic Festival in Glen Innes, NSW.** A weekend of Celtic music, spirit and friendship at the Australian Standing Stones 2022 celebrating the Year of Brittany, Cornwall and Wales. Info: [www.australiancelticfestival.com](http://www.australiancelticfestival.com)

**28th May – Saturday - Berry Celtic Festival in Berry, NSW.** A celebration of Celtic culture at Berry Showgrounds, with pipe bands, entertainment, stalls and more. Info: [www.berryrotary.org.au/celtic-festival](http://www.berryrotary.org.au/celtic-festival)

**4th June – Saturday - Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival in Wingham, NSW.** The Manning Valley Historical Society presents the annual free community event. Clans from all over the country descend on Wingham to enjoy the Festival. The Clan of Honour for 2022 will be Clan Donnachaidh. Also pipe bands, entertainment, Scottish dancers and stalls. Info: [www.bwsf.zyrosite.com](http://www.bwsf.zyrosite.com)

**2nd July – Saturday - Aberdeen Highland Games at Aberdeen, NSW.** Throughout the day there will be fun for all the family – there will be Highland and Country Dancing, Pipe Band displays, Strong Man events with the Kilted Warriors to enjoy as well as three-legged races and the famed Kilted Dash to participate in. A multitude of stores and stands will surround the area selling all manner of Scottish heirlooms and souvenirs, clothing and garb, and food and drink to complete your day. For further information phone



when Ken was retreating from Gambut he accidentally drove up to the front line. On more than one occasion, due to miscommunications, his family at home thought he'd been killed.

In the worst conditions and with salvaged aircraft used to do repairs to their own planes the men worked on Tomahawks, P40E Kittyhawks, P-51 Mustangs and others, even at one stage acquiring a German 109G Messerschmitt. Generally, the groundcrew and technicians were allotted kites (aircraft) at each landing ground.

There was always plenty to do over and above maintaining the aircraft. The men were expected to go on wood carting trips to scavenge wood for their mess and their own personal fires outside their tents on cold nights. All supplies had to be trucked or flown in, even water supplies.

The No 3 Squadron were often engaged in intense air battles. Ken knew the No. 3 Squadron's longest serving commanding officer (CO) during the war, Squadron Leader Bobby Gibbes, from Bathurst, whose tour lasted from February 1942 to April 1943.

Right – Temporary Corporal  
Len Black, service number  
15080, in his pilot's outfit,  
standing on the wing of a  
shark painted Kittyhawk  
aircraft of No. 3 Squadron in  
the Middle East in April  
1942.



The men were then moved to Tripoli and Tunis where the pilots and Leading Aircraftsmen (LACs) fought the enemy.

Ken lived at Richmond after the end of the war where he died on 23rd August, 2007. Ken was married and he and his wife had four children.

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## SCOTTISH MERCHANT TOKENS EMERGENCY MONEY

In the late 1790s the British Treasury in London authorised the Bank of England to countermark foreign coins with an oval and octagonal countermark, on mainly silver coins. At the same time various merchants throughout Scotland also had coins countermarked. Spanish silver dollars were purchased and sent to the Royal Mint on Tower Hill to be melted down

or for silversmiths to make tokens though this process was slow and cumbersome.

The countermarking of foreign coins was officially authorised by Treasury to be issued by the Bank of England between 1797 and 1804. Almost three million dollar-size coins were imported by the Bank of England for its own needs and some private issuers.

With Great Britain at war with Republican France in 1796, the treasury needed all the coinage it could obtain. England feared a French or Ireland invasion.



Also, the agricultural crops were poor in 1799 and were draining gold reserves. In 1797 the monetary crisis was critical as customers withdrew their savings leaving money for local commerce in short supply. It seems that numbers of Scotland's private banks also issued the silver tokens in an attempt to alleviate the problem. Two of them were the Thistle Bank in Glasgow and the Greenock Banking Company.

However, the merchants in Scotland preferred the Spanish dollars to be countermarked and circulated by themselves thus promoting the 'company' which issued them. Above - One of the large silver 8 reales of King Charles III typical of the silver Spanish coins minted with Mexican silver that were countermarked in Scotland.

Right - The obverse of a Scottish Merchant countermarked silver coin with a circular countermark with the wording - "J. MCK. & Son GREENOCK", around a central 4/6 (four shillings and sixpence)." It was issued by John McKelvie & Son of Greenock in Scotland with the countermark being stamped on a crown size 1817 Mexican 8 Reales.



John senior was a grocer and spirit dealer with his shop at 25 Dalrymple Street, in Greenock. His son, John junior, was a wholesale grocer and tea

dealer operating from 16 Shaw Street in Greenock, a sea port and market town. It was located on the southern shore of the Firth of Clyde westwards of Glasgow.

The actual value of each token issued seem to vary from four shillings and sixpence, four shillings and ninepence, five shillings and five shillings and three pence depending on the date issued. Merchants still had to purchase the Spanish coin at the rate going at the time. They had to buy it cheap enough to reissue the coins at a price where they could still make a profit, albeit a penny or more. It appears that the dates on the Spanish coins are generally from about 1789 until 1806.

Numbers of cottonworks in Scotland issued them. Cotton mills could cost £24,500 to build and equip and often employed over 500 to 600 people. Thomas and Robert Arthur, muslin manufacturers at 11 John Street in Glasgow issued a 5/- token. McFie Lindsay & Co, wholesale grocers, carrying on their business at 3 William Street in Greenock had a beaded circle with 4/6 in the centre. McGavin and Clarkson & Company, textile manufacturers in Sneddon Street, Paisley, also had 4/6 along with Ballindalloch Cotton Works who had a large 5/- in the centre. Messres Dale and Arkwright set up their cotton mill at New Lanark in the mid 1780s. Unfortunately, it was burnt down in 1788 with Mr. Dale paying his workers in full whilst repairs were made though Arkwright didn't agree and their partnership was ended. Dale continued and at one time employed some 400 children who he schooled, fed and accommodated. He employed six teachers to educate the children.

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## **McRAE'S LUCK**

Bruce McRae, brother of Niel McRae, who lives at Moonan Flat, and his son Ben McRae who runs the Farram's Muswellbrook Store, relates this story. The cattle had been hand fed with cattle nuts and hay for the previous 20 months as the severe drought continued in the Upper Hunter several years back.

On the 36 degree day, 70 year old Bruce McRae and his son Ben, using their motorbikes, rounded up a mob of cattle and took them to the yards. Bruce's motorbike had a problem, it was hard to start, had little power and was stalling regularly - it appeared to be starved of fuel. After sorting, treating eyes and routine cattle work, the cattle were taken back to their paddock across the dry Hunter River and the boys moved to another paddock for the next mob. Bruce's bike stalled and on restarting would not run past idle, cattle work would have to wait.



**T**HE Partnership hitherto existing between the undersigned, at Balranald, in the Lower Darling District, is this day dissolved by mutual consent.

**All outstanding debts to be paid to Mr. Robinson.**

L. ROBINSON.

T. B. DUGGAN.

Witness—JOHN M'CRÆ.

Swan-hill, 17th January, 1850.

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3s. 6d. 12

There is a John McCrae and Campbell McCrae listed as prominent Swan Hill residents in the 1850s. An McCrae homestead with a hipped roof was constructed c.1852 using an adze in its construction, especially the verandah posts. Sheep were run on the property. John later had a street named after him in Swan Hill in Victoria called McCrae Street.

## BATTLE OF CULLODEN

Much has been written about this Scottish battle which once again saw large numbers of Scotsmen slaughtered during the Jacobite uprising. The defeat at Culloden was to mark the bloody end of a two year campaign. The battle took place on Culloden Field near Inverness on 16th April, 1746. Charles Edward Stuart's Jacobite Army was up against William Augustus, the Duke of Cumberland, whose Army incidentally contained many Scots, along with English, Irish and Welshmen and Hanovian soldiers. The battle of Culloden lasted for under an hour.

Stuart's full name was Charles Edward Louis John Casimir Sylvester Severino Maria Stuart, wow what a mouth full. Young Charles was the elder son of James Francis Edward Stuart, grandson of King James II and VII. It seems that most Protestants as well as numbers of prominent parliamentarians were apprehensive that some Kings wanted to return England to the Catholic fold.

Charles Stuart had not long returned from France and had sailed to England with a large number of French soldiers. He proceeded to raise an army as he was intending to take England's throne. Stuart's army was composed of Scotsmen, Englishmen, Welshmen, Irishmen and French soldiers, who were predominantly on horseback. A number of groups of MacRaes took part at Culloden, however they never returned. The Jacobites almost reached London during 1745 but were on the retreat back to Scotland pursued by Cumberland's men. The Jacobites still had the will to fight at Falkirk in January 1746. The Scots were hungry and had few provisions at this time.

On the night of 15th April, 1746, Stuart's soldiers had tried to attack Cumberland's camp but the move proved unsuccessful. This encounter saw the Scotsmen lined up for the fight with many tired, cold and very hungry. Cumberland's officers had already surveyed where the battle was likely to take place. They already knew that it was an area bordered by dykes which had been constructed to prevent flooding from the sea, so the Jacobites would

be crammed in.



Left - A battle scene at Culloden in the Illustrated London News

The English with their muskets and bayonets and cannons outmatched the Scots with their broadswords and

pikes. The battle commenced with devastating cannon barrages despatched by the Hanoverians with the Jacobites unable to move basically. After enduring the carnage from the cannons for some twenty minutes the Jacobites attacked the opposing lines to try to get out of the slaughter.

The boggy terrain saw the men get out of line and the Jacobites found it difficult to deploy their muskets and then reload them. The English infantry, on dryer ground, fired their muskets in volleys and then quickly reloaded. Then Cumberland unleashed his cavalry who swept through the remaining Jacobite lines slashing with their swords before the infantry finished the rebels. It had already been made clear that there would be no prisoners taken.

All bodies were checked and if the Jacobite was alive or feigning death he was despatched. Many of the dead Jacobites were buried in mass graves.



The French cavalry helped some of Stuart's men by attacking the English cavalry so that amid the carnage they took the opportunity to desert. Some were taken prisoner as Cumberland thought he could hold them to ransom. Many of the prisoners were executed in Inverness in the Scottish Highlands and buried there.

Cumberland's Hanovian Army, which numbered around 9,000 soldiers, massacred about 5,000 men. Charles Stuart, or Bonnie Prince Charlie, was forced to leave all his personal possessions behind. He was hidden away for some five months by his supporters until he managed to sail to France and escape. He then travelled to Rome. Many of Stuart's loyal followers who remained in Scotland were rounded up and some were executed.

Many of the soldiers of the French regiments fighting for the Jacobites were taken prisoner and later swapped for British prisoners of war who had previously been imprisoned in France.

The loss at Culloden with so many losing their lives effectively ended the Stuart cause. There were subsequent attempts to take the throne of Great Britain, however these failed to emerge. The Battle of Culloden is also known as the Battle of Drummoissie.

Above & Left - Today the area is marked by a large Memorial Cairn along with stone Clan grave markers. A single 'English Stone' monument commemorates men of Cumberland's forces who fell in the battle. No one knows where the 'English' dead were buried, so the stone should be taken as symbolic rather than an actual grave marker.



**OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 2022**

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**South Australia**

**In need of a representative.**

**Membership is due in January**

Cost is \$20 per annum – Payable to the Treasurer

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