



Murray Clan Society of NSW

Newsletter – April 2012

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Greetings members and friends,

Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2012.

Annual Gathering 2012

As we advised in our last Newsletter, the 2012 Annual Dinner-Dance will be held on 2nd June. We promised that further details would follow and here they are:

The 2012 Dinner will be held to coincide with the Bonnie Wingham Festival. Our function will take place on the night of **Saturday, 2nd June** at the **Wingham Bowling Club**.

Starting time will be 6.00 for 6.30pm, and we have a wonderful programme lined up, including:

- **Special Guest Speaker: Mr John Easton**, President of the Paterson-Easton Family Association
- **Highland Dancing** performance by **Meredith Long** from Newcastle
- Performance by members of the **Tamworth Pipe Band**
- A Concert on the theme "**The Way it Was**", led by Des Morgan and Associates. Des has the distinction of being the first Australian recognised by the USA's Country and Western Hall of Fame.
- Launch of a new book: "**Of Greater Worth than Gold - The History and Legacy of Isabella Murray**", written by Clan President Ross Murray

A special invitation has been extended to members of the **Paterson-Easton Family Association** to join us on this occasion. There has been a strong bond of both intermarriage and friendship between our families, who came from the village of Camptown in the Borders region of Scotland.

There will be a three-course meal including a **Haggis Entree** (after the Haggis has been traditionally piped in).

The cost will be **\$40 per person**. Please send numbers and payment to **Colin Murray, 9 Lambert Street Wingham 2429** by **Friday, 25th May**. We need to have accurate numbers a week before the dinner. If members could pay with their booking it will greatly relieve pressure on our hard-working Treasurer on the night.

Below is a programme for the **Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival**. We would encourage members to visit the Festival on the Saturday, **meet us at the Murray tent**, and perhaps **march in the procession at 9.30am that day**.

We look forward to another great weekend.

As part of the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival there will be a **Heritage Tour** which will feature a number of sites associated with the early Murrays. It will leave the Wingham Museum at 10.00am on the Saturday. There will be a stop for lunch at the Artisan's Retreat at Mondrook. The tour cost will be \$10.00. Bookings can be made through the Manning Valley Historical Society. Further details: Warwick Murray: warwickmurray@bigpond.com.

All members are invited to an **informal BYO picnic lunch on the Sunday** on the river bank at Wingham. Under our current constitution we cannot hold an annual meeting until the second half of the year, so the Sunday lunch will just be a time for members to get together. We would love to see you there.

Please get in touch with me if you have any queries about the dinner, or Warwick if you would like more information about the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival.

Moving into the 21st Century

We are currently developing a **website** for the Clan Society. We have a temporary site up and running but will be purchasing our own domain name and developing the site much further over the next few months. If you would like to have a look at the site as it is at the moment, go to www.murrayclannsw.weebly.com.

We hope that by the time we send out our next newsletter we will have a permanent web address. Feel free to visit the temporary site, click on the various pages and give us your constructive suggestions.

New Book to be Launched

At the Dinner there will be a launch of a new book on the Manning Murrays: ***Of Greater Worth than Gold: The History and Legacy of Isabella Murray***. It is now over 30 years since the late Fred and Joan Murray published their ***The History of the Australian Murrays from Roxburghshire Scotland*** in 1981. This landmark book, affectionately known as "the yellow book" is and will remain an excellent account of the history of the Manning Murrays.

However, since that time, there has been an increasing interest in several of the nine branches of the family in compiling their own branch histories in more detail. The Hugh Murray branch has been very comprehensively documented in a history coordinated by Darryl Murray, and a great deal of research has been carried out into the James Murray and John Murray branches.

There seemed to me to be a need for a general history covering the Murrays in Scotland and their migration to Australia which would serve as a starting point for these individual branch histories. The book to be launched sets the migration of the Murrays in its historical context. It reveals a great deal more about the family than has previously been known, and covers in general terms aspects of their legacy that will no doubt be taken up in more detail in individual family histories.

The book is still in the final stages of production. It will be printed on quality paper with quality binding to ensure that it will not fox (go brown and brittle) or fall apart over the years. It will also contain some coloured pictures. The book will be about 100 pages long (A4 size), and the approximate price will be \$25.

The Manning Murrays have a wonderful heritage and I invite members to support this project to preserve and acknowledge that heritage.

Death of Win Murray

Another link with the past has been lost with the death of Win Murray, widow of our late Patron Fred Murray. Fred and Win were my parents. Win passed away at Storm Retirement Village on 4th April at the age of 91. She was a regular attender at our Clan gatherings for many years. She grew up in what was then the working class Sydney suburb of Maroubra and moved to Taree after her marriage to Fred in 1943. In Taree she was well-known as an

elocation teacher and speech and drama adjudicator and was very involved in the women's ministry at the Church of Christ in Taree for many years.

Memberships

The Clan Society operates on the basis of the financial year. This means that memberships fall due on 1st July. Although unfinancial members continue to receive Newsletters and are welcome at all functions, there are ongoing costs in running the society, such as insurance, for which we are dependent on membership fees.

Embroidered Shirts

At the top of this Newsletter is a version of the Murray Crest. This particular crest has been purchased by the Clan Society. The purchase includes the right to use the crest as a logo on stationery, on our website and on clothing etc without infringing copyright.

We have paid for the image to be digitised and stored on the computer system at Workwise Clothing in Marathon Street, Taree. This particular company stocks a range of quality polo shirts for both men and women. Should any member wish to have the logo embroidered on a polo shirt or cap, the cost is about \$10 on top of the price of the garment. I have had two shirts embroidered and have been pleased with the quality.

The Clan Society has no commercial relationship with the Company and we receive no commission from sales. We are simply providing a means to simplify the purchase of embroidered garments for those who may wish to do so.

New Arrival

Andrew and Marcelle Murray of Perth have welcomed the arrival of their first child, Jack Oliver George Murray. Andrew is the son of Clan Commissioner Warwick Murray and his wife Jenny.



Thank you all for your support for the Clan Society. We hope to see many of you at the Dinner on 2nd June.

Ross Murray

President

The Treasurer
Murray Clan Society of NSW
9 Lambert Street
Wingham NSW 2429

I wish to advise that the following people will be attending the Murray Clan Society Dinner-Dance on Saturday, 2nd June.

Enclosed is payment of \$..... .

Name(s):..... Signature.....

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The Treasurer
Murray Clan Society of NSW
9 Lambert Street
Wingham NSW 2429

Enclosed is my membership subscription for the Murray Clan Society for 2011-12.
(\$15 individual / \$25 family)

Name(s):..... Signature.....