



# Murray Clan Society of NSW

## Newsletter – March 2013

10 Banksia Parade  
TUNCURRY NSW 2428

Ph: 02 6555 9818

Email: [murrayr46@gmail.com](mailto:murrayr46@gmail.com)

### Greetings

Welcome to all our members and friends. Here is our first Newsletter for 2013. It's not quite the bumper issue we had last time, but there is important information about the forthcoming gathering and other significant matters.

Would you please note that I have changed my personal email address. If you are replying to this Newsletter by email, please do so to the new address: [murrayr46@gmail.com](mailto:murrayr46@gmail.com).

### Annual Gathering 2013

As we advised in our last Newsletter, the 2013 Annual Gathering will be held on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April**. This year we will be returning to our traditional venue, the **Wingham Services Club**, which has not been available to us in the last couple of years.

This year's function will be somewhat less formal than in the past, in response to requests from members that they would like more time to chat, share stories and just get to know each other. We will still have the haggis piped in, of course, but instead of a special speaker we have arranged for four of our members to speak for five to eight minutes each on topics relating to the Clan Society, our Scottish heritage and what it means to them. The speakers are:

**Mr John Huggart, Mrs Margaret Tuiqereqere, Mr David Long and Mr Bob Murray.**

We have not engaged a live band this year, but will have background music (not too loud) of a Scottish nature. We have arranged for a piper and drummer to play a few tunes.

Guests are asked to arrive at **6.00 for 6.30pm**. A great deal of planning has gone into this function, the speakers are keen, and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as can possibly make it. The cost will be **\$35 per person**.

It is a great help to our treasurer if money is paid in advance. If you will be attending, please return the slip that appears at the end of the Newsletter. If you wish to pay by bank transfer, simply email or ring me with the names of those attending.

**Please note:** The caterers require numbers prior to the event. **Please advise numbers by 13<sup>th</sup> April.**

## Annual General Meeting

This year marks the end of the three year period for the current committee, so all committee positions will be declared vacant. I believe that it is vital for the future health of the Society that the committee be more widely representative than it currently is. All the current committee members have worked very hard on behalf of the Society, some of them for a very long period of time. Three members (Alex Murray, Jan Weekes and Bob Murray) have served continuously since the first meeting was held to plan the establishment of a Clan Society on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1979.

Living outside the Manning District should not be a barrier to membership of the committee. We can send you an agenda and you can contribute by phone or email if you cannot be physically present. It would be good to have representatives of Murrays who are not related to the Manning River Murrays. Please give it some thought. Many organisations decline when the key figures who inspired their beginnings and energised their growth are no longer able to give that same degree of drive and commitment. We don't want that to happen to us.

The **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 11.00am on the river bank at Wingham**. All members are welcome. There will be a picnic lunch after the meeting (BYO), and barbecues will be available.

## Clan Banking Information

Our Treasurer, Timalee Murray, has updated our bank account and we are now able to offer internet banking. Membership fees (\$15 individual and \$25 family) as well as the dinner cost can be deposited by electronic transfer. The details are:

Account name:	Murray Clan Society of NSW
Bank:	Westpac
BSB:	032590
Account number:	651482

Use your name as the Reference so that we can identify who made the payment.

## Reserve the Date for 2014

As we advised in the last Newsletter, in 2014 we are will be holding our gathering in conjunction with the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival. This will be an exceptional event. The Scottish Australian Heritage Council will be transferring the celebration of Scottish Heritage Week from Sydney to Wingham, and the Earl and Countess of Dunmore, Malcolm and Joy Murray, have accepted an invitation to preside over the festivities.

As we wrote last issue, the reason for the celebration is that 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 is the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, where in 1314, Scottish forces led by King Robert Bruce imposed a crushing defeat on the English forces led by King Edward II. It was an important battle in the fight for Scottish independence from England.

There will be a Grand Scottish Ball on the Saturday night of the Festival (22<sup>nd</sup> June), followed by a formal Bannockburn Dinner on the Sunday.

Just for next year, we will be holding our function on the **Friday night, 21<sup>st</sup> June**. That way we will not clash with any Bonnie Wingham activities and we have the exclusive company of the Earl and Countess of Dunmore for the evening. It should be a great weekend. Please put the date in your diaries.

## Personal News

### Paul Inwood:

Paul and Raylee have recently returned from an overseas trip which included what Paul describes as “the obligatory Scottish leg” Paul is a former secretary and newsletter editor and he and Raylee do a great job representing the Clan Society at various Scottish heritage events around the State. Paul was able to visit family graves at Langholm, as well as “every castle and ruined abbey we could find”. They also toured parts of Scandinavia, catching up with Paul’s son who currently lives in Sweden.

### Ross and Jill Murray:

Alex Murray tells us that Ross and Jill Murray from Dalby in Queensland called in recently at the Wingham Museum. Ross is the grandson of Walter and Louisa Murray of Kolodong, between Taree and Wingham. Walter was the eldest son of Thomas and Agnes Murray, original settlers at “Camphouse”, Killawarra, and therefore relatives of Alex. Ross bought a copy of the book about his family’s migration from Scotland: “Of Greater Worth than Gold” and Alex took him out to “Camphouse” and to the old family cemetery there.

Ross’ father Harold and uncle Claude bought a property at Scone and did the milk run around Scone for about 23 years. He himself is a real estate agent and was in the Manning area to see his grandson play cricket in the Kookaburra competition. He took advantage of the visit to learn a great deal about his family’s history in the district.

### Alan Martin:

Alan and Barbara Martin have been great friends and supporters of the Clan Society for many years. On 10<sup>th</sup> January they celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and a wonderful tribute to their lives was published in the local press. Sadly, on 19<sup>th</sup> January, Barbara passed away at the age of 82. We express our condolences to Alan on the loss of Barbara.

## Dates for Scottish Festivals

Here are the dates for those Scottish festivals in which we participate. If you would like to help with the Murray tent at any of these events, please contact Warwick Murray at [warwickmurray@bigpond.com](mailto:warwickmurray@bigpond.com).

**6<sup>th</sup> April: Bundanoon** - 36th Annual Brigadoon-Bundanoon Highland Gathering. Australia's largest Scottish gathering with a full day of entertainment and activities including pipe bands, Scottish dancing, Clan village, stalls and much more-a great Scottish day out.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May: Glen Innes** - Australian Celtic Festival. Celebrating the year of Scotland at the Australian Standing Stones. A full weekend of Celtic fun and entertainment in the heart of Celtic country.

**31<sup>st</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June: Wingham** - 9<sup>th</sup> Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival. Events include: Braveheart Poets’ Breakfast, Single Malt Whisky Night, Street Parade, Grand Scottish Ball, Thanksgiving Service and Blessing of the Banners, Colloquium of Clan and Celtic Association Leaders, Scottish Concert and more.

**21<sup>st</sup> September: Nelson Bay** - Clans on the Coast. Organised by Port Stephens Celtic Assoc. at the Tomaree No1 Sports Ground. A full day of pipe bands, strong man events, Clans, parade, Scottish dancing and more.

## Website Stories

Our website, [www.murray-clan-nsw.net](http://www.murray-clan-nsw.net), continues to prove its value, even though it is still in the development stage. One woman, who had recently discovered that she was a descendant of James and Bridget Murray through their daughter Johannah, who married Alfred Gordon, did an internet search for James and Bridget Murray. She was not expecting to find anything, but her search turned up our last newsletter with Julie Evans' fascinating article on James and Bridget. She contacted me for a copy of "Of Greater Worth than Gold" and was delighted to have so much information about her Murray ancestors.

About the same time, another James / Bridget descendant (through their daughter Agnes, who married James Gordon, Alfred's brother) read Julie's review of "Of Greater Worth than Gold" in "Descent" magazine, the journal of the Australian Genealogical Society. She also did an internet search to buy a copy of the book, and found the Clan Society website. Through our website, we were able to put these two relatives in touch with each other and with other descendants of James and Bridget of whom they weren't aware, so that they have been able to share knowledge of their family history together.

## Anyone for New Zealand?

The Murray Clan Society of NZ are holding a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013** and would be delighted to have representatives from Australia. If you are touring NZ and would like to meet up with our kiwi cousins, contact the Secretary, Mrs Eunice Sammes, 382 Bay View Road, Dunedin 9012 NZ. Her phone number from Australia is 00116434557137.

Malcolm Murray, Earl Dunmore, writes: "Joy and I have been their Patrons for over ten years and I remember them being thrilled with the greetings of the Murray Clan of NSW sent for their 40<sup>th</sup> back in 2003, which we read out at that dinner... [Eunice and Bob Sammes] are dear friends of ours and Joy and I always stay with them when in Dunedin."

Malcolm and Joy also pass on their greetings to members of the NSW Clan Society.

## The Battle of Flodden

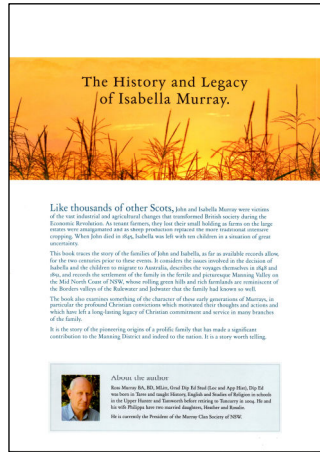
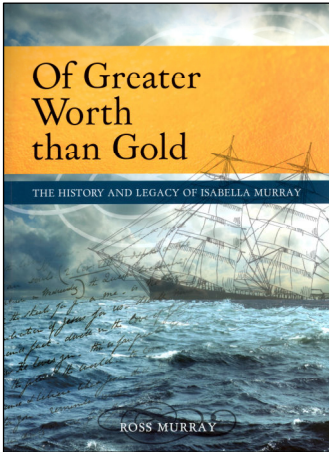
This year is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Flodden, when a huge Scottish army led by King James IV was massacred by the English on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1513. James IV was killed in the battle, as were many thousands of soldiers (estimates vary) and a significant proportion of the Scottish aristocracy. James had invaded England to support his French allies who were at war with Henry VIII of England.

To acknowledge the occasion, a Flodden Dinner is being held at the Wingham RSL Club on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2013**. A commemorative Church Service will be held at the Catholic Church on the Sunday. More details will follow in the next Newsletter.

## Paterson-Easton Gathering – Reserve the Date

It was a great pleasure to have so many members of the Paterson-Easton Family Association join with us at our last annual dinner, and to have their President, John Easton, as our guest speaker. The Paterson-Easton Dinner will be held this year on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September**. Further details will be provided in the next Newsletter, but we can announce that all members of the Murray Clan Society have been invited to attend. There has been a very long association between the Murrays and the Eastons, who were neighbours in Camptown, Scotland and who intermarried in Australia. One of the Murrays, Agnes, married William Paterson and settled at Krumbach, so we have close links with the Patersons as well. We urge as many of our members as possible to support this joint activity.

## Isabella Murray Book



Just a reminder that the book *Of Greater Worth than Gold: The History and Legacy of Isabella Murray* is still available. It tells the story of the migration of the Manning River Murrays from Scotland and their early life in Australia. We don't have an advertising budget, so are largely dependent on word-of-mouth to spread the word. The 96-page colour-illustrated book costs \$25.

There are three ways you can obtain a copy:

1. Buy one from either the **Wingham Museum**, or **Manning Valley Books** in Manning Street Taree, or **Words and Wares Bookshop** in Tuncurry.
2. Send me a cheque with your address details and I will post it to you (postage \$3 extra).
3. Deposit the \$25 + \$3 for postage in my bank account (using your name as the reference), and email or ring me with your address. My account details are:

BSB: 812170  
Account number: 6950322  
Account name: RD & PM Murray.

## Final Remarks

Thank you all for your continuing support for the Clan Society. Do think about nominating for the Committee. We look forward to seeing you over the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> April.

Warm regards,

Ross Murray

President

**Murray Clan Society of NSW**

**Annual Dinner**

**20<sup>th</sup> April, 2013**

The following people will be attending the Murray Clan Society Annual Dinner on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> April:

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Children are welcome and will be given special recognition. Please advise the ages of any children attending.

Payment will be made by cheque / cash / bank transfer (circle preferred option).

Please return with payment:  
by 13<sup>th</sup> April to:

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