



Murray Clan Society of NSW

Newsletter - February 2016

www.murray-clan-nsw.net

PO Box 407

WINGHAM NSW 2429

Ph: 02 6555 9818

Email: murrayclansocietynsw@hotmail.com

Welcome

A very warm welcome to our first Newsletter for 2016. As always, we hope that you will all find something of interest. Most importantly, please note the information below about our 2016 Annual Gathering. A great deal of work goes into organising these functions and we look forward to a big roll-up. Remember that the Murray Dinners are now held during the same weekend as the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival, so why not join us for a weekend of enjoyment and catching up?

Annual Gathering 2016

As advised in our previous Newsletter, our **Annual Dinner** this year will be held on **Saturday, 28th May** at the **Wingham Golf Club**. Our guest speaker is local historian **Maurie Garland** who will no doubt have some interesting tales to tell of the early Scottish settlers in the Manning Valley. Maurie has published several highly acclaimed books and is the editor of the Journal of the Manning Valley Historical Society.

Guests are invited to arrive from **6.30pm for a 7.00pm start**.

There will be the usual haggis ceremony together with quality entertainment including highland dancing.

The cost of the Dinner will be **\$40 per person**.

In an effort to encourage more families to participate, **the cost for children and non-working young people under 18 will be \$20**.

We look forward to seeing as many members and friends as possible at the dinner.

Bookings for Annual Dinner

Our Treasurer Timalee Murray will be taking bookings for the dinner. There are **two ways to book**:

1. **By email:** Advise Timalee by email that you will be attending. The Clan Society email address is murrayclansocietynsw@hotmail.com.

Payment may be made by internet banking. The Clan Society's bank account details are:

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

When making deposits, please use your name as the "Reference" so we have a record of who has paid.

2. **By post:** Complete the slip at the end of this Newsletter and return it to:

The Treasurer
Murray Clan Society of NSW
PO Box 407
WINGHAM NSW 2429

Cheques should be made payable to **Murray Clan Society of NSW**. Please pay in advance as we prefer not to collect money on the night.

For catering purposes, we will need numbers by **Friday, 13th May**. Many members find it convenient to renew their membership when they pay for the dinner. Annual membership fees are vital to our organisation and cover important expenditures such as insurance. They also allow us to invite special speakers from outside the district from time to time. Annual membership fees are \$10 per family or \$5 single.

Please advise any special dietary requirements at the time of booking.

Annual General Meeting

This year the AGM takes on extra significance because a new Committee must be elected for the next three years. Please consider whether you might be able to offer your support in this way.

This year, the AGM will be held in the **Murray tent** at the **Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival** on **Saturday 28th May at 11.00am**. If you have any suggestions to make, this is the best forum to air them.

Passing of Joy Murray



Most members would already be aware that Joy Murray, The Rt Hon the Countess of Dunmore, passed away on 4th August, 2015. As I have written previously, since her husband, Malcolm, The Rt Hon the Earl of Dunmore, inherited his titles in 1995, he and Joy have been wonderful ambassadors for our Scottish heritage and for the Murray Clan Societies in Australia and New Zealand. They have visited Wingham three times for Murray Clan activities.

Joy was always a wonderful support for Malcolm as he travelled extensively fulfilling his ceremonial roles. In all situations, their engaging and humble nature has enabled them to form many friendships and has endeared them to many. Joy was a delightful and charming person who was always happy to converse with people no matter how busy her programme.

Despite the honour associated with the title, Joy remained very down to earth and never exhibited a hint of superiority over others. She was patron of a number of organisations, including the Australia Day Committee of Victoria and the Victorian Chapter of the Monarchist League.

She was greatly loved and will be greatly missed. The Clan extended its deep and sincere sympathy to Malcolm, his two children and their families.

Message from Clan Farquharson

Following the passing of Joy Murray, we received the following letter from Bruce Finlay, High Commissioner of Clan Farquharson Australia:

Dear Ross, and all Members of Clan Murray in NSW and Australia,

All of us at Clan Farquharson Australia were very sorry to learn of the sad passing of The Rt Honourable The Countess of Dunmore, Joy Murray, beloved wife of His Grace Malcolm Murray, the Earl of Dunmore, on 4th August, 2015.

A great Clan stalwart, Joy Anne Murray was outstandingly a wonderful support for her husband in his stewardship in carrying out his many duties as Clan Chieftain and High Commissioner for Clan Murray in Australia. Her compassion and “joie de vivre” uplifted everyone she met. I recall the several occasions I had the pleasure of meeting Joy and Malcolm Murray over quite a number of years, and certainly feel the loss of one so vital and vibrant. Joy will be missed by many people.

On behalf of all our members at Clan Farquharson Australia, I extend heartfelt condolences to Joy’s family, and to the members of the Clan Murray Societies in Australia and all members of Clan Murray.

Yours sincerely
Bruce Finlay
High Commissioner

New Email Address

The Clan Society now has its own email address: murrayclansocietynsw@hotmail.com.

Alex Murray

Founding member, former President and esteemed Patron Alex Murray had a heart attack on 15th January. He was rushed to Newcastle where he had an emergency quadruple by-pass operation. He has come through it quite well and is now back in Taree. We all wish Alex and Pam the very best for Alex’s full recovery.



Heather Paterson

The Clan has lost one of its founding members and long-term supporter with the passing of Heather Paterson (nee Parker) from Gangat. Heather’s mother was a Murray and she therefore represented one of the many family links between the Murrys and Patersons.

Heather passed away in January and had four children, eleven grandchildren and 25 greatgrandchildren. She was 91.

Engagement

We are pleased to advise that since our last Newsletter, our treasurer Timalee Murray has announced her engagement to Todd James of Wingham. We sincerely congratulate the happy couple.

Website Queries

From time to time we receive requests for information through our website. Unfortunately we lack the resources to respond to all of these. One such query is from Douglas Patrick Murray, email dougpmurray@bigpond.com. Doug writes:

My grandfather / great grandfather? arrived in Sydney via ship (stowaway I think) and became a tram driver. His name was George Murray and he had five children. My father was George Henderson Murray, his last child. I am interested to find out more about the family.

If any of our members has any knowledge of this family, please feel free to contact Doug.

New Arrival



Ross and Philippa Murray's first grandchild arrived on 12th September. Abigail (Abby) Rebecca Lukins was born on 12th September to their daughter Rosalie and husband Simon who are currently living in Darwin.

Special Exhibition Opened at Wingham Museum

On 2nd December, 2015 my wife, Philippa, and I had the great pleasure of attending the opening of a series of three special exhibitions at the Wingham Museum.



The exhibitions were the William Garlick taxidermy collection, the Sutherland mineral and gemstone collection and the Fred Murray birds' egg collection.

My late father Fred Murray, a founding member and Patron of the Clan Society, spent much of his spare time as a boy in Harrington in the 1920s collecting birds' eggs. This was not illegal at the time, and many boys collected eggs as a hobby, swapping them with each other to add to their collections. Fred had a collection of about 200 clutches of eggs, mostly in pairs. He knew which species of birds they belonged to and had labelled almost all of them. Many of these birds are now very rare or extinct as a result of habitat destruction and other factors. Before Fred passed away in 2008 at the age of 91, he donated his collection to the museum but it has taken until now to arrange their display.

The Manning Valley Historical Society welcomed representatives of the three families. I was delighted to receive a bulky folder of documentation about the exhibit, and we were all provided a typical country style morning tea. The photo above, which appeared in the Chronicle on 9th December, shows Shirley Naftel (descendant of William Garlick), Wingham Museum curator Terry Turnoff, Dr Iain Sutherland and Mrs Hilda Sutherland (donors of the geology collection), myself, and Manning Valley Historical Society president Barbara Waters.

Museum curator, Terry Turnoff, has done an excellent job of developing a display cabinet for the eggs, which he said were a favourite exhibit for school groups visiting the museum. He indicated that the collection was unique in that it would be impossible today to replicate the collection.

For the full Wingham Chronicle newspaper report see

<http://www.winghamchronicle.com.au/story/3533911/significant-collections-in-museum-honoured/?cs=1551>



Part of the Fred Murray Birds' Egg Collection

Visitors to Scotland

From time to time members of the Murray Clan and their friends and families return to Scotland to learn more about the land of their ancestors. Recently Eric Richardson OAM, a great friend of the Murrays and stalwart of the Manning District Historical Society and the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival, travelled Scotland with his wife Mave to search out his Sommerville and Herkes ancestors. They came from the same general area from which the Manning Murrays migrated. We invited Eric to share some observations about his trip.



During our recent trip to Scotland, my wife Mave and I made our third visit to the Roxburgh area of Lanarkshire to further explore my Sommerville and Herkes ancestors' home base, mainly around the beautiful Jedburgh, Melrose and Morebattle areas. Over the past few years, we have become "regulars" at the Royal Hotel in Jedburgh and are always warmly welcomed and well looked after. This visit we again attended Church at Morebattle and took a greeting letter from our Uniting Church Minister, Rev Darrell McKeough, to the congregation.

By the time we got back to Wingham their reply was on our notice board and in the congregation newsletter. Morebattle is about the size of Cundletown in the Manning Valley, with a Presbyterian Church operating, and an Anglican Church not then holding services. Within their parish there are three congregations, Morebattle holding weekly morning services, with Linton and Kirkholm holding afternoon services once a month. All have cemeteries in their grounds, which helps when you are looking for ancestor headstones.

The congregation still dresses to the standards my mother expected, all the men in coat and tie and some women with hats. There was a congregation of about 50 on the Sundays we have been in attendance. I was directed to Linton, a village about the size of Wherrol Flat, to see some graves and wall plaques in the Church. When I asked about a key I was told that while the Church was locked, the key was always left in the door. I was able to find several headstones and three wall plaques with Sommerville names on them. Mave also took my photograph in the pulpit with a Sommerville name behind me.

Travelling the area and especially the Great Glen, I was surprised to see the amount of bracken fern, privet and both blackberry and raspberry growing everywhere. Discussing the amount there and around the Scottish settled areas in the Manning, I discovered that the women of the time used (and still use) all of them to make potions and poultices for all kinds of illnesses and injuries.

I have read over the years many books about the conditions under which our ancestors who were farm workers lived and the ways in which they were exploited. I was also surprised to see the numbers of roofless stone buildings in the rural areas. It confirmed for me the dreadful conditions under which they existed and gave reason for their obsession with having their names on the deeds of the farmlands on which they settled here, never again subject to landlord whims and exploitation.

I also learned the origin of two words which they brought with them; "fired" and "sacked". When farm labourers were fired it meant that the thatched roofs of their houses were burnt to make them unliveable. Sacking meant that they were only allowed to take a sackful of belongings with them.

Will we go back? I'm sure that the questions aren't all yet answered, so I certainly hope so.

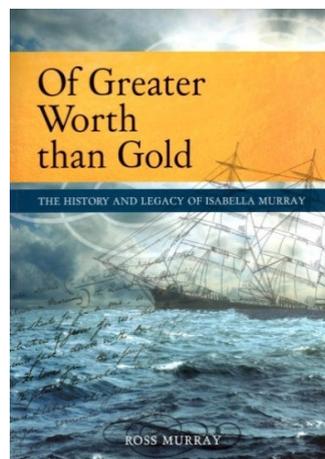
Eric Richardson

Isabella Murray Book

The book on the history of the migration of the Manning Murrays from Scotland is still available.

They are \$25 each (\$28 posted).

Email me at murrayr46@gmail.com if you are interested.



Feedback

Don't forget to let us know if you have any questions about anything in this Newsletter. Remember, too, that we welcome contributions from our members. We can't print what we don't know about.

Also, just a reminder that if you are receiving this by post and you have access to email, please send us your email address. This helps to reduce postage and you get a Newsletter with coloured pictures. Please have a look at our website at www.murray-clan-nsw.net.

See you at the Dinner.

Warm regards,

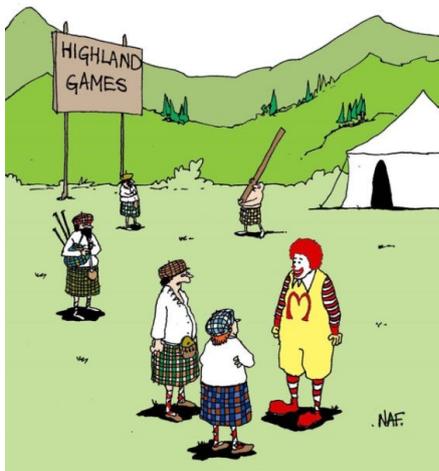
Ross

A Bit of Fun

An armed, hooded, robber burst into the Bank of Scotland and forced the tellers to load a bag full of cash. On his way out the door with the loot, one brave Scottish customer grabbed the hood and pulled it off, revealing the robber's face. The robber shot the Scotsman without hesitation! He then looked around the bank to see if anyone else had seen him. One of the tellers looked straight at him and the robber walked over and calmly shot him also. Everyone by now was very scared and looking down at the floor.

"Did anyone else see my face?" asked the robber.

There were a few moments of silence, then one elderly Scottish lady, looking down, tentatively raised her hand and said: "I think my husband might have caught a glimpse"



"What clan do you belong to?"



Three friends married women from different parts of the world. The first man married a Greek girl. He told her that she was to do the dishes and house cleaning. It took a couple of days, but on the third day he came home to see a clean house and dishes washed and put away.

The second man married a Thai girl. He gave his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes and the cooking. The first day he didn't see any results but the next day he saw it was better. By the third day he saw his house was clean, the dishes were done, and there was a huge dinner on the table. The third man married a girl from Scotland. He ordered her to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, lawn mown, laundry washed, and hot meals on the table for every meal. The first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything either but by the third day, some of the swelling had gone down and he could see a little out of his left eye and his arm was healed enough so that he could make himself a sandwich and load the dishwasher. He will still need crutches for several weeks.

Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival

As mentioned earlier, the Murray Clan Society Annual Dinner will be held during the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival. What follows is an outline of the festival programme. If you are interested in more information about any of these activities, you would need to contact the Manning Valley Historical Society.

Sunday, 22nd May

2:00 pm Scottish Concert: Catholic Church

Thursday, 26th May

10:00 am Genealogy Fair: Wingham Services Club

Friday, 27th May

7:30 am Braveheart Poet's breakfast: Anglican Church Hall

10:00 am Historic District bus tour: from Museum (some early Murray sites included)

10:30 am CWA Shortbread Baking Contest: CWA Rooms in Isabella St, and Judging of shop window displays

12:00 midday Golf: 9 hole Clash of the Clans mixed tournament: Wingham Golf Club

12:00 midday Bowls: Mixed single entry social bowls: Wingham Bowling Club

5:30 pm Mayoral Reception: Wingham Library

7:00 pm Scots Family Night Out: Wingham and District Memorial Services Club

Saturday, 28th May

9:00 am Market & Clan information stalls open: Central Park

9:30 am Street parade commences: Bent Street

10:00 am Opening Ceremony followed by highland games, pipe bands and fair: Central Park

3:30 pm Closing Ceremony commences: Central Park

6.30 pm Grand Scottish Ball: Wingham and District Memorial Services Club

6.30 pm Murray Clan Society Annual Dinner: Wingham Golf Club

Sunday, 29th May

7:30 am Lay led Thanksgiving Service and Blessing of the Banners: Wingham Riverside Reserve

8:00 am Barbecue Breakfast: Wingham Riverside Reserve

10:00 am Colloquium of Clan and Celtic association Leaders: Australian Hotel

12:00 midday - 2.30 pm Combined Scottish Lunch and "Ceilidh": Wingham and District Memorial Services Club

Annual Dinner Booking Slip

Please return this slip if you are booking for the Annual Dinner by post.

(You do not need this form if you are booking by email.)

We must have this information by Friday, 13th May.

I / we will be attending Murray Clan Society Annual Dinner on Saturday, 28th May 2016.

Names:

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Method of Payment (\$40 per person / \$20 children) – Please circle correct responses:

- a) Payment is enclosed
- b) Payment has been transferred to the Society's Bank Account

Optional: Payment includes membership subscription of:

\$10 (family) / \$5 (individual)

Special dietary requests:

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Please post to:

Murray Clan Society of NSW
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