



Murray Clan Society of NSW

Newsletter - April 2017

www.murray-clan-nsw.net

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Welcome

Greetings to all our Murray Clan members and friends. Quite a lot has been happening in the Clan Society, including the development of a different style of gathering for 2017.

Recently we were saddened by the loss of Tom Cornall, one of our very esteemed and longstanding members (see tribute below).

Since the last newsletter my wife Philippa and I had a fascinating holiday in Egypt. As a retired History teacher I found the country's ancient monuments full of interest, but I was also keen to experience modern Egypt. The people are friendly (mostly) but the country faces many challenges, including widespread poverty and social injustice. We are indeed privileged to live in a country like Australia.

I hope you all find something of interest in the Newsletter. Don't forget that the newsletter can only be as interesting as the information we receive, so if you have a story or information that is worth disseminating, please send it in.

Annual Gathering 2017

As we indicated in the previous Newsletter, this year will be a little different. Our gathering will, as usual, coincide with the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival. However, rather than an evening dinner, we will be having a Clan Luncheon at the festival itself. Please note the date: **Saturday 3rd June**.

We have arranged to hire a marquee which be erected on the edge of Wingham Park. Anyone connected with the Murray Clan, especially members, will be welcome to drop in any time during the day for light refreshments and a chat. **At 12.30pm, there will be a lunch provided at the marquee.**

At recent gatherings, some have suggested that the cost of the formal dinners prohibits the participation of families with children. We hope that this experimental format will overcome this obstacle, and we will evaluate its success after the gathering. There will be no formal speeches other than a general welcome, and we hope that as many members as possible will join in on the day and make it a very worthwhile occasion.

The cost of the lunch will be \$12.00.

There will be tables and chairs to sit down and relax. Please come and enjoy the ambience of the Scottish Festival, a hearty meal, the friendship of the wider Murray families, and do your bit to keep the Clan Society alive and active. See you there.

For information on the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival, see <http://www.manninghistorical.org/bonniewingham2017.html/>.

Bookings for the Clan Luncheon

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 day.

For catering purposes, we will need numbers by **Friday, 26th May**. Many members may find it convenient to renew their membership when paying for the lunch. 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.

"Gowan Brae" Centenary – Sat 1st October 2016

Gowan Brae was built by Robert Easton in 1916 from timber milled on the property. It was a retirement home for his wife Isabella and himself, overlooking Burrell Creek and the creek flats and hills beyond. It is a most picturesque setting.

Robert and Isabella's daughter Beatrice and husband Jock Murray with baby son Elmo came to live and help with the home and property. Their children Bob, Kit and Bert



were born there, and Bob and Bert stayed on to manage the property, which they did for many years. Family and friends always enjoyed horse rides, patting the lambs, and observing the animals and birds on the property, as well as sharing a yarn and tales of the “old days”.



Rosemary Murray welcomes family and friends to Gowan Brae

The home has been the focus for many happy family occasions: dances, music, bonfires, school visits, and both Murray Clan and Easton-Paterson gatherings. It is eminently suitable for such occasions, with its enormous verandah overlooking the lush green valley below and so much of its history having been lovingly preserved for so long by Bob and Bert, and more recently, Raymond and Rosemary.



President Ross Murray chats to Margaret Cribb (nee Murray)

Raymond and Rosemary Murray came to *Gowan Brae* in 1999 and started rescuing the old homestead from the ravages of time. Sadly Ray did not get to see his vision for the place fulfilled, as he passed away in 2007. Rosemary decided to carry on with the help of family and friends, all of whom came together to celebrate *Gowan Brae*'s centenary year.

Rosemary thanked all those who had an association with the house over the years and those who had helped to conserve and restore the heritage of the property. Ross Murray and Warwick Murray spoke on behalf of the Murray Clan and Philip Paterson for the Paterson-Easton Association, after which Rosemary and Ray's grandchildren cut the cake, looking towards the future.

All were invited to view the house, watch the slide show of the working parties involved and enjoy the many photo albums tracing the history and characters involved with the property over the years.



Rosemary and Ray's grandchildren Kelsey, Jack, Natalie and Grace cut the Centenary Cake which was made and decorated by Michelle Murray

Morning tea was served and Auld Lang Syne was sung to honour the Scottish heritage and *Gowan Brae*.

It was a wonderful gathering of family and friends. We thank Rosemary for her interest in preserving the property, for the effort she put into the 100 year celebration, and for providing the information and photographs for this report.



Peter Murray chats with Warwick Murray in the dining room

Passing of Tom Cornall

We were saddened on 12th May with the passing of Tom Cornall of Bunyah at the age of 86. Tom had been a great supporter of the Murray Clan Society since its inception, attending virtually every annual gathering. Tom's late wife Margaret was a grand-daughter of Hugh Murray, who migrated to Australia from Scotland on the *Castle Eden* in 1848.

Tom farmed the property at Bunyah that was originally taken up as a soldier settlement block by his grandfather after the First World War. He was an accomplished rodeo rider in his early days and loved dancing, an activity he continued to enjoy throughout his life.

Tom served 25 years in the Army Reserve. At his funeral, tribute was paid to his Army service by Del Heuke, an ex RAAF nurse and long term local RSL volunteer who is a life member of the NSW RSL.

Tom was a fine gentleman and will be sadly missed by his family and friends. In later life, Tom enjoyed many years of companionship with Alma Murray. To Alma and to Tom's sons Darrin and Brendan and their families we extend our sincere condolences.

Tom's funeral was held at the Dyers Crossing Anglican Church prior to his interment at Krambach Cemetery. Murray Clan Commissioner Warwick Murray spoke on behalf of the Clan and Rob Gow, well known to many local Murrays, played two bagpipe solos.

Camphouse

Many members would know that *Camphouse* at Killawarra was one of the original Murray properties on the Manning, having been taken up by Thomas Murray. The property has been the scene of many Murray Clan gatherings and features a cemetery in which several of the early Murrays are buried.

The property is currently owned by Mr Dave King of Castlereagh. Mr King is distantly linked to the Murrays through the Moore family and the property is being well cared for. In particular, new fencing has been erected around the historic cemetery and the homestead is being maintained, although it is unoccupied.

Mr King has indicated that Murrays are welcome to visit the property. His contact details are:

Address: 229 Hinxman Rd, Castlereagh 2749.

Phone: 0412 271 412

We thank Mr King very sincerely for the manner in which the site is being maintained and for his willingness to open the property to visitors.

Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Each night of this year's Edinburgh Tattoo will be dedicated to a Scottish Clan. Clansfolk will be led on to the castle esplanade by their various Chieftains. The Murray Clan will be honoured on 4th August. For anyone interested, here are extracts from two emails we have received about this event:

1. From Simon Harding:

I know that Clan Murray is being represented at the 2017 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo on 4th August as part of the Splash of Tartan celebrations... Other than being involved in the parade, if you think any individuals might just like to come along to support the clan on the night and need either a ticket and hotel package or just hotel accommodation, you might like to add the following link to your website <https://www.theatrebreaks.com/edinburgh/splash-of-tartan>.

It gives details of the Tattoo, the dates for Splash of Tartan and our ticket and hotel packages.

If you have any questions then do please get in touch.

All the best
Simon (simon.harding@theatrebreaks.com)

2. From Daniel & Anna Moray Parker

Dear Ross,
I hope this email finds you all well.

Fri 4th August 2017

This is a unique opportunity to join us at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The evening is especially dedicated to the Murray Clan and we will join Michael Tullibardine and a strong contingent of Atholl Highlanders who will march onto the esplanade with full pipes, drums, and regimental colours for a short ceremony with some interesting VIPs before taking seats.

For those of you who are not familiar with The Tattoo it is the headline event of the Edinburgh Festival each August. It takes place on the esplanade in front of Edinburgh Castle which must be one of the most iconic settings in the world. It has a cast of 1,200 performers from all over the world including massed pipe bands and other theatrical and military performances. There is also a stunning lighting display and fireworks. This will be one of 25 shows running throughout August – each one dedicated to specific clans. There is an audience of 8,000 each night and the TV coverage has a global audience of 100 million people.

We have already bought some £35 Tattoo tickets in Stand 16 Rows G-H in the name of the Murray Clan Society for redistribution but, if you are able, we would urge you buy your online tickets or through the ticket office directly... this is the online purchasing link: www.edintattoo.co.uk with password 'ARTHUR 20' for our clan seating or call the box office on +44 (0)131 225 1188 if buying over 8 tickets: the remaining £35 tickets are in Stand 16 Rows M-CC plus there are still £47, £52, £74, and £125 tickets available.

We have also booked balcony rooms in the New Club on Princes Street for our clan members and associates to rendezvous prior to the event and we will take this opportunity to formally reactivate the long-dormant Murray Clan Society (UK) – more details on this to come... if you would like to join us please let me know for numbers and I will keep you posted. NB we may ask for a modest contribution to venue hire and refreshments on the day.

We hope that representatives from as many branches of the clan and septs from across the world as possible can join us.

With thanks and best wishes,

Daniel & Anna Moray Parker

*The Murray Clan Society
c/o Estate Office
Abercairny
Crieff
Perthshire PH7 3NQ*

Email: daniel.parker@abercairny.com

If anyone can make it, please contact Daniel for more details. It is great to hear that the Murray Clan Society in the UK is being revived after being defunct for many years.

Judy Bourke

Judy Bourke from the NSW South Coast has been a keen member of the Murray Clan for many years and is a familiar presence at our gatherings. Here is a delightful four-minute segment from ABC TV where Judy talks about one of her favourite places:

<https://open.abc.net.au/explore/164264?sf45455902=1>

Just for fun

1. In a wild area of Scotland, Ian's wife goes into labour in the middle of the night and the doctor is called to assist in the delivery.
To keep the nervous father-to-be busy, the doctor hands him a lantern and says, "Here, hold this high so I can see what I'm doing."
Soon a wee baby boy is brought into the world.
"Whoa, there, Ian!" says the doctor. "Don't be in a rush to put the lantern down. I think there's another wee one to come yet."
Sure enough, within minutes he has delivered a bonnie lass.
"No, no, don't be in a hurry to put down the lantern, lad. It seems there's yet another one besides!" cries the doctor.
Then Ian scratches his head in bewilderment and asks the doctor, "Do ye think it's the light that's attractin' them?"

(Courtesy of Peter Fitzsimons)

2. A bloke walks into a bar and announces "I have a great new bagpipe joke!"

The bartender says "Let me stop you right there son. You see that karate black belt hanging up behind the bar? That's mine. And I play the pipes."

See that tough lookin' feller in the Harley T-shirt? That's my brother - and he plays the pipes.

And that big ugly old guy in the corner with the big scar across his face? That's my Dad - and he's a piper. Now, are you sure you wanna tell that joke in here?"

"No way. Not on your life. Not if I'm going to have to explain it three times!"

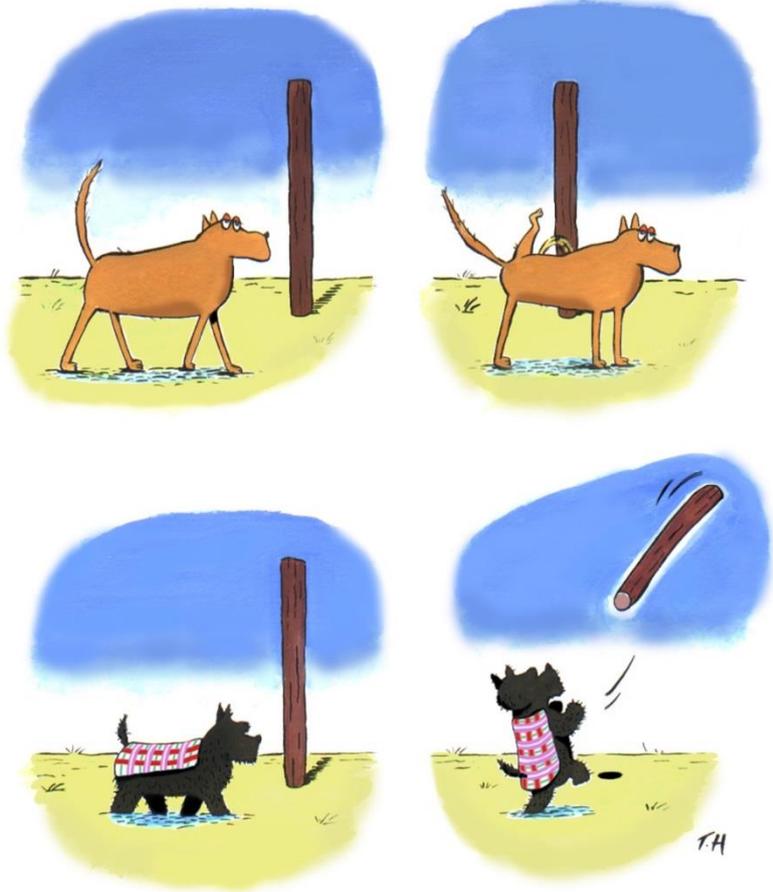
3. For those on the internet, you will enjoy this short scene from a popular British TV show

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dzyWdXXKXE>

4. The Scottish Mountaineer



5. The Superior Scot



Warm regards to all,

Ross Murray

President

Luncheon Booking Slip

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

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

We must have this information by Friday, 26th May.

I / we will be attending Murray Clan Society Luncheon on Saturday, 3rd June 2017.

Names:

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Method of Payment (\$12 per person) – 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:

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