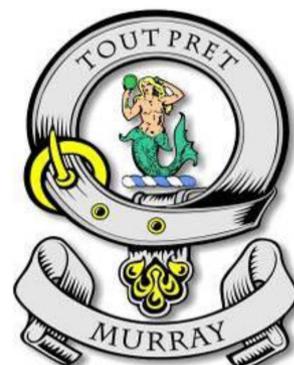


Murray Clan Society of NSW



Newsletter - May 2022

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Welcome

Greetings everyone. Here is our Newsletter for May 2022.

Not a lot has been happening since our last Newsletter, but with things starting to free up we hope that we will be back to normal soon. We hope that there will be something of interest in this issue for all our our members.

Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival 2022

As we advised in our last Newsletter, our Clan tent will be operating at the Festival again this year. We encourage as many as possible to attend the Festival on **Saturday 4th June** and to spend some time at the tent. It is usually a fairly busy place and we really value catching up with members from near and far during the day.

The Committee has decided after much discussion and feedback that we will not hold a formal gathering this year. Covid is still very prevalent in this area and we are aware that despite the relaxing of most restrictions many people are still avoiding indoor gatherings.



Because of the pandemic, the Bonnie Wingham festival is a single day event again this year rather than the traditional week-long activity.

The Clan of Honour will be Clan Donnachaidh which includes the Robertsons, Reids and Duncans.

Entry fee will be \$2 per adult. The Parade will begin at 9 a.m. and all Murray visitors are invited to participate. The program will include highland dancing, pipe bands, a quintet competition, Jacobite re-enactments and highland games. The festival website is www.bonniewingham.com.

Annual General Meeting, June 2022

Although the Clan tent at the Festival is not the ideal venue for the Annual General Meeting, we have little other option this year. The AGM will take place at 1.30pm at the tent.

The three-year term of the current Committee ends this year and all positions will be declared vacant. Please consider supporting the Clan by offering to join the Committee.

As I indicated in the previous Newsletter, I am hopeful that we will be able to make more use of technology in future (eg *Zoom*) to make it easier for members from outside the Manning District to participate in the Committee. Please have a think about whether you would like to have a greater role in the Clan Society.

The present Committee works well, but most of us are getting on a bit and would like to see some new faces.

I did mention last time that we have not had a Clan Society Patron since Alec Murray passed away in 2016, and we have only one Life Member (Bob Murray). You might like to think about nominating people for these positions at the AGM.

Membership Matters

Thanks to Donors

We are very thankful to those who responded to our invitation last issue to make a contribution to the Clan finances. Your support has been very much appreciated and the funds will enable the Clan to continue to function for the foreseeable future. I have not yet personally thanked a number of the generous folk who donated but will be doing so in the near future.

Membership

Our fees are set at \$5 for an individual and \$10 a family. We fully realise that since the start of the pandemic you have not seen a lot of value for your membership fee, but costs such as insurance (\$240 a year) continue whether or not we hold a formal function.

If you would like to pay a subscription by bank transfer, our bank details are:

Account name: Murray Clan Association

Bank: Westpac

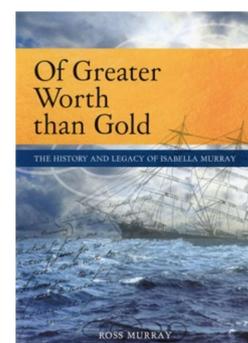
BSB: 032-590

Account number: 651482

Please use your name as the "reference" so we know who has contributed. Memberships can also be paid at the Clan tent at the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival.

Clearance Sale

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, the book *Of Greater Worth than Gold* is now ten years old. The response to this publication has been marvellous and I am grateful to the hundreds of people who have purchased copies.



Remaining copies can be purchased for \$5. I will have them at the Murray tent on 4th June, or I can post them out (postage cost additional).

Jeanette Greenway (nee Blake)
(23 March 1937 - 15 September 2021)

Contributed by Julie Evans



Jeanette and I were third cousins as we shared James and Bridget Murray as our great-great-grandparents. James Murray was the son of John and Isabella [Scott] Murray. I descend through another John, son of James and Bridget Murray, and Jeanette descends from Johanna, daughter of James and Bridget Murray. Jeanette and I didn't know each other as we grew up in Australia and it was only as adults on opposite sides of the world that a passion for family history, and a determination to learn as much as possible about our ancestors, drew Jeanette and me together. A first cousin of mine had traced Jeanette to the United States in the early 2000s and I made contact soon after.

We marvelled at the stories of our ancestors: Isabella Murray and her children who came to Australia from Scotland in 1848 and 1851 to make a new life on the Manning, and Bridget Ryan who came to Australia from Ireland as a Famine Orphan in 1850.

Jeanette was born in Sydney in 1937. When her father was away during World War 2, Jeanette, with her mother and sister Barbara, lived in her grandparents' shop. After school, Jeanette obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Therapy from the University of Sydney. With this qualification, Jeanette travelled to the UK and worked in London. While overseas she travelled extensively throughout Europe. Always a traveller, she explored Australia, North America, Europe and Asia.

On her return to Australia, she met and married Alan Greenway. In his early career, Alan formed a syndicate with a few Australian businessmen to build a motel that would expand to become a chain, Motels of Australia Ltd. The company, which later went public, became Travelodge Australia. He then became chairman of Travelodge International Inc. from 1968 to 1973. Alan played a key role in the Australian tourism industry before moving his family to La Jolla California in 1978, where he started a hotel investment and management company. La Jolla was Jeanette's home for more than forty years.

Jeanette devoted many wonderful years to raising her two daughters, Sue and Peta, and enjoying and encouraging them in many of their activities. She was also a keen volunteer. In Sydney she was a volunteer docent (a teacher of Art visiting groups) at the Art Gallery of NSW and a volunteer for Meals on Wheels. In La Jolla she volunteered in the Bishop's School Library. As part of her continual curiosity, she shared her love of genealogy with her daughters as they tracked their family's history throughout England and Ireland.

Jeanette was eager to learn about the area where James and Bridget Murray had lived in New South Wales and in 2009 she came on holiday to Australia at a time which coincided with a Murray Clan gathering. We were able during that Clan weekend to visit sites relevant to our family history and to stand by the graves of many ancestors, including that of Irish Bridget and her husband James Murray in Tinonee Cemetery.



*Left to right: Jeanette Greenway, Julie Evans and Barbara Farrell
at 2009 Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival*

Jeanette and I continued our research on opposite sides of the Pacific and then, in a series of coincidences, I was asked in 2013 to take part in a program being made by the Irish National Television network. A year-long event was planned, designated 'The Gathering', a tourism led initiative aimed to mobilise the Irish diaspora to return to Ireland to be part of local gatherings and events. The television network selected 12 people from the USA, the UK and Australia, who had Irish heritage, to return to Ireland and be filmed for a television series. It was a mini 'Who Do You Think You Are?' I was very lucky to be asked to take part

to discover Bridget Ryan's story. When I told Jeanette about it she was thrilled and decided to join me to be onsite when the filming took place. Peta accompanied her.

It was Jeanette's prior research which was the starting point from which the TV researchers led us through an intense three days of visiting churches, graveyards, a school, a library and monuments, of not knowing where we were going or what we were going to find out. It was an exciting and overwhelming time as we learned more about our young Irish girl and her family, her life in Ireland and her reason for leaving.

Jeanette was always looking for new challenges and took up golf and bridge after her daughters left home.. She also participated enthusiastically in book clubs, the La Jolla Literary Society and the Village Garden Club.

Jeanette is survived by her daughters Sue and Peta. She is predeceased by her parents, Eric and Thelma Blake; her sister Barbara and her husband Alan. A celebration of her life was held at the La Jolla Country Club on 17 November 2021.

Rest in peace Jeanette.

Julie Evans

Mavis Hile (nee Murray)

Contributed by Lorraine Murray

The local Murray Clan were saddened to learn of the passing of Mavis Hile who passed away at the grand age of 97 on the 19 October 2021. She was the much loved mother of Elwyn and mother-in-law to Christine. She was cherished by her grandsons Andrew and Brendon. A great grandmother to baby Lisa whom she met via Facetime.

Mavis was the eldest of six children and only daughter born to Sam and Ally Murray (nee Maurer) of Bunyah. Mavis was predeceased by 3 of her brothers, John Murray, Fred Murray (both of

Bunyah) and Norman Murray (Uncle Joe) of Taree. She has 2 surviving brothers, James Hilary (Uncle Hilary) of Tamworth and The Rev. Ray Murray of Grafton.

Sam and Ally (Nanny) were the grandparents of Vice President Ian Murray of the Murray Clan Society and of Committee Member Lorraine Murray. Fred was their father and the husband of Joyce Murray, also a Committee Member.

Mavis was raised on the family farm at Bunyah. She married Leo Hile, also of Bunyah, She lived in Bunyah until ill health forced her to move to Storm Village in Taree to be closer to medical care.

Mavis was an active member of both the Bunyah Hall Committee and the Bunyah Tennis Club. She was a capable tennis player and an accomplished musician on the button accordion and the fiddle. Many a fun time was had with Mavis playing at family gatherings for the family sing-alongs.

She was a regular attender at the Bunyah Church and, after moving into Taree, at the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia in Taree.

She was a kind, generous, beautiful lady who was much loved by her many nieces and nephews and her many friends. She was laid to rest in the Krambach cemetery beside her husband, the service being conducted by Rev George Ball on 26 October 2021.

Murray Rowden Rich



The death occurred on 29 January 2022 of Murray Rowden-Rich, a long-time member of the Clan. Murray was always very interested in his family history. In recent years he lived in Anchorage, Alaska, but during visits to Australia would catch up with members of the Clan Society and his wider family.

Murray served as banner-bearer for Malcolm Murray, Earl of Dunmore, when he attended the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival as Clan Chieftain in 2009 (see picture).

Murray was very much involved in the Baha'i faith. One of his Alaskan Baha'i friends, Ley Schleich, has written: "He was in many ways colourful, intelligent, generous, thoughtful, poetic, philosophical, scientific, and devoted to his beloved Bahá'í Faith".

Our condolences go to Murray's family.

Warwick in Warwick for Celtic Festival

Our Clan Commissioner Warwick Murray recently attended the Celtic Festival in Warwick, Queensland (25-27 March). He set up the Murray Tent with all the usual flags and signage which apparently attracted much photographic attention.

Warwick reports: "The day was perfect as was the incredibly well maintained Warwick Showground, one of the best I have ever seen, prepared with the assistance of the Queensland Corrective Services Department!!!"

Warwick was joined at the festival by two of his children, Elissa and Andrew, who travelled from Nambour and Lennox Head with their partners and children for what Warwick described as “the Full Scottish Experience”, which included eleven bands, caber tossing, highland cattle, highland dancing and haggis stalls. According to a police count there were 8000 in attendance which made it all a most excellent occasion.



Warwick (back right) with daughter Elissa (second from left), son Andrew (at rear) and their families at the Warwick Celtic Festival



Warwick with a Romany dance group at the Warwick Festival

Aberdeen Scottish Games

The **Aberdeen Scottish Games** will be held on **Saturday 2 July**. Clan Commissioner Warwick Murray will be there with Paul Inwood, operating the Murray Clan tent and stall. Warwick has pointed out that these “have always been fine events and attendance is recommended”.

Bight Cemetery Restorations

Readers may remember that in July 2019, workers employed by Midcoast Council vandalised about 60 graves at the historic Bight Cemetery at Wingham. Many of the people interred in the cemetery are Murrays or connected to Murray families.

Since the vandalism, further damage has occurred to the smashed graves because of exposure to weather, leaves, ground moisture etc.



However, almost three years since this destruction, the Council has finally begun to fulfil its pledge to restore the graves. Warwick Murray has been checking on progress with the restoration of the grave of Alexander Lobban, ancestor of many Manning Murrays through his daughter Margaret's marriage to George Murray.

Alexander's headstone has been re-erected after some minor dramas: on first lifting the stone a brown snake came towards the workers (including Warwick) who "vacated for a while". While Warwick was there, the workers lifted three headstones and there were snakes under them all. Browns and blacks!!!!

All that remains to be done is repairs to the lettering that was damaged in the vandalism attack.

Headstones have been left like this for almost three years
(Photo credit: Tim Crossley, "Blight of the Bight" Facebook Page)



Damaged Lobban graves awaiting repair

It's a lot easier to knock them over than to put them back up



Workers re-erecting the headstone of Alexander Lobban



DNA Article

(Thanks to Leigh Murray for his expertise and enthusiasm for this project, and for keeping us up to date)

Since our last report, there has been more progress on our DNA tree.

We have had two more people who descend from John Murray (1670 to 1749) and Isobel Turnbull complete a Y700 test.

Those two tests have confirmed for us that those in our family who came from Scotland to Australia with Isabella Scott carry the marker (also known as SNP) described as R-FT193005.

Those tests have also demonstrated that several of us have markers which show entirely new branches of our Murray DNA line.

That means that in the future people will look back to our generation and say that is where our family line split to create a new family branch.

What we now also know, is that Gordon Murray, a representative of the Haning line of Murrays, does not carry any of the markers that those of us who descended from John Murray (1709 to 1772) and Jean Henderson carry. Gordon is a descendant of the original John Murray (1669 to 1749) but not from his son John (1709-1772).



But we all do carry four markers that existed in John Murray (1669 to 1749) and several of his predecessors – those markers could take us back to possibly 320 years before that John Murray was born (ie 1350).

What we now need to do is find some Murrays that split from our branch between 1350 and 1670.

So, how can we find people who lived in that time period? Given we know the Murray line, the Waldron line and the Morrow line may have co-existed prior to 1670, we should ask anyone who has those surnames (ie Murray, Morrow, Waldron) and who we know does not descend from Isabella Scott, if they know from where their families originated. If they say from Scotland, or more specifically, the Edinburgh area, or south of Edinburgh, ask them if they have considered doing a DNA test.

If they are willing to test, ask them if they would do a Y37 test, in the first instance. A Y37 test will indicate if they are related to us. Then, if they are related it might be in their interest to upgrade to the more expensive and much higher quality Y700 test. That could allow us to date when they split from our line.

We do know there are other Murrays in our DNA project that left our line earlier than 1350 and at the moment we aren't sure of when that branching actually occurred.

The next exciting development in DNA land is the Million Mito project. FTDNA (the DNA company we use) have now taken over this project and they are seeking many more people to undergo a full sequence Mitochondrial DNA test so they can build numbers to develop and then test the tree that they are creating using mitochondrial DNA.

The good thing about this type of DNA is that anyone can do this test. It is a test for men and women and follows the female line instead of the male line which is tested with YDNA. Where the male line passes from a father to a son, the female line is passed from a mother to her children. Ultimately that means the DNA is passed between you, your mother, her mother, her mother, her mother, etc. It contains lots of different surnames and is not as easy to follow as the male line.

It will be interesting to see how this tree develops. FTDNA are hoping to have a tree of some kind by the end of this year. But their goal, in the meantime, is to have the results from one million people so the tree is properly developed and tested.

If you want to be involved in this project go to the FTDNA website and order a test. You will need to complete the full sequence test.

That is all from me for this newsletter. If you are considering doing a test, please go to the FTDNA website and if you have any queries please contact Ross or myself.

Tartan Carpets Australasia Pty Ltd



From time to time we receive notices from Scottish-based companies in Australia inviting us to inform our members of their products. One such request was recently received from Tartan Carpets Australasia Pty Ltd, a company which distributes carpets, rugs and throws produced by Stevens and Graham, Rutherglen Scotland. Their website is www.tartan Carpets.com.au and they also have a Facebook page.

The email came from Murray Gardner (ph 0423 621 692) who describes himself as from Blair Atholl (on his mother's side) and Lanarkshire (on his father's side). Feel free to peruse the website.

Did You Know?

1. There is a tartan officially named the "Spirit of Australia"? <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-03-12/perth-tartan-celebrates-colours-of-australia/100904182>
2. There is an official koala tartan? <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-10-27/australian-koalas-gets-its-own-tartan-by-gunnedah-weavers/100552578>
3. Canberra has an official tartan? <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-01/the-chequered-history-of-canberra-tartan/9492876>

Finally...

All the best to all our readers. We hope to see some of you at Bonnie Wingham on 4 June.

Ross Murray, President



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From an advertisement for Scottish coasters at
www.etsy.com/au