

# Murray Clan Society of NSW

## Newsletter – February 2010

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### *Dear Members and Friends of the Murray Clan Society*

Thank you to the kind folk who made favourable comments about our last newsletter. This issue is considerably shorter, but hopefully will keep you informed of developments.

### **Annual Dinner – Dance**

As advised in our last newsletter, the annual Dinner-Dance will be held on **Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> April** at the Wingham Services Club. We would be delighted to have a great roll-up. Arrive at **6.00pm for a 6.30pm start**.

The Federal Member for Lyne, **Mr Robert Oakeshott MP**, whose mother is a Murray, will be our after-dinner speaker. We look forward very much to having Mr Oakeshott with us.

We have also lined up an outstanding band from Walcha, so the dancers among us will very well catered for.

We will of course pipe in the haggis as usual. These dinners have always proved to be great evenings for catching up with people and enjoying the family atmosphere that has built up over many years. We hope to see you there.

The cost of the evening will be **\$38 per head**, which will include a main course and dessert, plus the haggis, with further light refreshments later in the evening.

Because of the opportunity provided by such a top-rate band, we have decided to open the function to the general public from 8.30 pm, at a cost of \$10 per head. Local people are therefore invited to bring along friends from that time, although guests are always welcome at the dinner as well.

You are free to pay on the night (a good time to renew memberships as well!) but we will need to have definite numbers by **3<sup>rd</sup> April**. Our caterers do a wonderful job, but they have indicated that **they cannot cope with a last minute increase in numbers**. If you are able to attend the dinner, please send the attached slip to our Treasurer, Colin Murray, or email me at [biggles2428@optusnet.com.au](mailto:biggles2428@optusnet.com.au) .

### **Annual Meeting / New Committee**

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on **Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> April at 10.00 am** on the river bank at Wingham Brush. We fully realise that not everyone can stay for the AGM, but we would love to have a representative turn-out.

After the meeting we will enjoy a **BYO lunch** together, and barbecues will be available for anyone who would like to use them.

Most members will be aware that our committees are elected for three years, and this year is an election year. New members would be most welcome, so please give some thought as to whether you might be able to make a contribution to the Clan in this way.

Our faithful secretary Dorothy Murray has indicated that she will not be standing for re-election. She tried to retire last year but was persuaded to stay a little longer. Is there an energetic person out there who would like to take on this task? It really isn't all that onerous – about four meetings a year, and possibly help with the newsletters. Obviously it is an advantage to live in the Manning area in order to attend meetings.

I think it is important for us to have a website, and I hope to be able to arrange to have one set up over the next year (I'm not suggesting that the new secretary does that.)

## **Speaking of Newsletters . . .**

At our last committee meeting we decided that it is not feasible to put out four newsletters a year. We now propose to send our two full newsletters a year, plus other notices as necessary.

One newsletter will come out after the annual gathering, with full reports, news, and the dates for the following year. At the beginning of the year, another newsletter will give full information about the forthcoming gathering, as well as other news. We are always happy to circulate general news items, so if you have any news or other material suitable for the newsletter, please feel free to send it to me.

This policy will of course be reviewed from time to time, as keeping in touch with members is a high priority.

## **Paterson-Easton Gathering**

Our energetic Vice President Ian Murray recently represented the Clan officially at the Paterson/Easton Reunion. This reunion was very well attended, with more than 200 people enjoying morning tea at the original homestead and the luncheon at Krambach Hall. Many branches of the family, including Murrays, were represented, and some Patersons had travelled from New Zealand. Ian delivered a greeting on behalf of the Murray Clan and enjoyed catching up with members of his own family in the Paterson/Easton line, some of whom he had not seen in years.

Other members of the Murray Clan present were Treasurer Colin Murray, Secretary Dorothy Murray and Patron, Life Member and former President Alex Murray. The Murray Clan Commissioner, Warwick Murray, was present as a representative of the Wingham Historical Society and delivered a greeting on their behalf.

We thank Ian for representing us so well. He said that he enjoyed himself so much he was looking forward to the next one in 2011, as a relative of the Paterson/Easton families.

The Patersons, Eastons and Murrays are connected by several marriages, and have links going right back to Scotland. I have a copy of the 1841 Census of the village of Camptown, showing John and Isabella Murray and their family, and Anne Easton and her children George and Janet, on the same page, separated by only two individual names. If they were not immediate neighbours, they certainly lived in close proximity to each other.

It is wonderful to see the connection being respected and furthered at reunions such as these.

## Lavinia Murray Bridge

I was driving through Bunyah a few weeks ago and had occasion to cross the Lavinia Murray Bridge. The old timber bridge has reached the end of its life, and the Council plans to replace it during this year.

It is nevertheless a continuing reminder of the contribution that Lavinia Murray made to the district, in particular to the people of Bunyah. She was the wife Thomas Murray, whose father Hugh migrated from Scotland on the *Castle Eden* in 1848. After Thomas' death, she served on the Shire Council for many years, campaigning, amongst other things, for the bridge which was later named after her.



## Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival

For those who are interested, the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival will be held from Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> May. There is a very full programme of events and activities, with details being available at:

<http://www.manninghistorical.org/BonnieWingham.htm> .

The Murray Clan Society will be staffing a tent on the Saturday and participating in the parade at 9.30 am. Members are invited to participate.

## Family History Research

One of the great benefits of membership of the Murray Clan Society has been the sharing of information on family history. My wife, Philippa, and I enjoyed a visit recently from **Andrew and Marilyn McCarron**. Marilyn, as many would know, is the daughter of the late Paul Murray from Bundaberg in Queensland, one of our stalwart supporters for many years. She is researching her branch of the family, the descendants of **Veitch and Ann (nee Moore) Murray**, and was undertaking some research in the Wingham district. Her great-grandfather Veitch was a very prominent and active citizen and farmer in the Wingham district before moving to Gin Gin where he helped pioneer the sugar industry, amongst other things.

Two other members, **Julie Evans and Barb Farrell**, are relentlessly tracking down information about their branch of the Manning Murrays – that of **James and Bridget (nee Ryan) Murray**. They are also trying to establish the details of the settlement of the wider Murray family in the area and are planning to produce a book/DVD based on their research. One particular brick wall in their research has been the migration of **George Weatherley and his wife Jessie**. This couple migrated to Australia some time between 1850 and 1854, but seem to appear nowhere in the records. In August 1854 they were in Melbourne, but purchased land at Killawarra which they called "Allan Bank" in 1856 (one usually reliable authority says 1854, which is probably incorrect).

The interest in the Weatherleys arises for three reasons. First, Jessie Weatherley was Isabella Murray's sister, and we would like to know which sister arrived here first (Isabella Murray arrived in October 1851). Second, George and Jessie's daughter Agnes married her cousin, Thomas Murray, a son of Isabella Murray, who settled at "Camphouse", the original Murray property. Third, George and Jessie's daughter Isabella married her cousin Robert Murray, another son of Isabella Murray.

Therefore, knowing something about the arrival of the Weatherleys would help us to complete the Murray jigsaw puzzle.

If any members have information on **George and Jessie Weatherley, James and Bridget Murray**, or **Veitch and Ann Murray** or any other previously unpublished information about the first generation of Manning Murrays, we would love to hear from you. In fact, if you have any documents/ photos, anecdotes, information, certificates etc which you think might be of interest, and which you would be happy to make available for publication, please let us know. One somewhat frustrating element of our research has been the large number of early photographs in the possession of Murrays which are not identifiable because no details were written on the back of them. It is important, for posterity, to record information about historic photographs, if possible by writing in pencil on the back of them.

We find sometimes that two or more people are unknowingly researching the same material. When this is discovered, there can be great benefit in working together. I had been working for some time on a book on Isabella Murray when I learned that Julie Evans was covering similar ground. When we compared our research, we discovered that much of our work was complementary. We are turning up some very worthwhile material on Isabella and her family's migration from Scotland, and expect to make this available in book and DVD format during this year. It is a truly remarkable story.

In future newsletters we are planning a "**Do you know . . . ?**" section, in which members can seek family history or other family-related information from other members. Feel free to send me your questions. *This invitation extends to those many members who are not descended from the **Manning Murrays!***

## A Reminder

If you received this newsletter by post, but would be willing to receive it by email, please email me at [biggles2428@optusnet.com.au](mailto:biggles2428@optusnet.com.au) and we will add your email address to our database. Sending the newsletter by email cuts down greatly on our costs and reduces the time required to get them out (plus you get coloured photos).

We send out about 90 newsletters and want to make sure that all members receive them. *If you are aware of any member who has not received a newsletter, please let me know.*

We also send out newsletters for a limited time to people who are no longer financial. If you are receiving a newsletter and have no wish to do so, please let me know and I'll delete your details from our database.

## Final Remarks . . .

Please feel free to send in your comments on any aspect of the Clan Society. The Committee is always open to suggestions and new ideas. If you have any queries or suggestions about the 2010 gathering, please let me know

Thank you all once again for your friendship and support. Hope to see you at the Dinner.

Ross Murray

President

**Annual Dinner – Response Slip**

Colin Murray  
9 Lambert Street  
WINGHAM NSW 2429

I / we will be attending the Murray Clan Society Annual Dinner–Dance on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2010.

Names attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment enclosed: Yes / No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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