

Murray Clan Society of NSW



Newsletter - April 2021

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Welcome

Greetings to all our members and friends. Here is your first Newsletter for 2021. As always, we trust that there will be something of interest for everyone.

Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival 2021

The Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival will be a single day event this year and will be held on **Saturday 5th June**. It is important to note this date as many tourist information websites are advertising it for the previous week.

The Murray Clan tent will be in operation and will be offering the usual welcome and hospitality to anyone who calls in.



Bonnie Wingham 2019

No Formal Gathering this Year

Your Committee met on 10th April and discussed at length what we should do about a gathering this year, especially as we were unable to meet last year because of Covid.

After a lot of deliberation, we decided not to organise a formal function this year. There were several reasons for this. We felt that there would be fewer distant travellers this year as many people are still avoiding large crowds. We also considered that the single day festival would be

less attractive to travellers. We also could not give the advance notice that we like to give about our functions. We felt that we could not commit to allocating funds for a function that would have limited support.

Everybody is welcome to attend the festival, however, and to catch up with us at the Murray tent. We trust that our members will be understanding of this decision.

Planned Gathering 2022

With no formal gathering in 2021, we are pleased to announce something special in 2022. Malcolm Murray, 12th Earl of Dunmore and a familiar face to the NSW Murray Clan Society, has accepted an invitation to attend. His presence always delivers a boost to our Society and we are delighted that we can look forward to another visit. The Earl will also be the Clan Chieftain for the Scottish Festival. We expect that the Festival will be held during the first weekend in June 2022. We will confirm the exact date in our next Newsletter.



Malcolm Murray, Earl of Dunmore, with Julie Evans and Barbara Farrell at the 2009 Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival

Clan Bank Account

We have had a glitch with our Murray Clan Society Bank Account which has apparently been mistakenly deactivated. We are negotiating to have it restored and this may take some time.

In the meantime, please do not send any membership fees or any other deposits to our account. Our next Newsletter will bring you up to date on this matter.

Annual General Meeting

Because we are not having a formal gathering this year, we have decided to hold our AGM in conjunction with our next scheduled Committee Meeting on Saturday 19th June at the Wingham Showground Tea Rooms.

The AGM will start at 9.00am and will be followed immediately afterward by the Committee Meeting. We realise that not many people other than the Committee will be able to attend. There are no topics or motions that have been submitted and the next Election of Officers is not due until 2022, so the main business will be the tabling of reports. As you can imagine, there will not be a great deal to report on the last 12 months. However, if anyone would like to submit any agenda items please contact me at murrayr46@gmail.com or 0419 169 674. Anyone who can attend will be most welcome.

Roderick Owen Murray



Many members will remember some of our early dinners where Rod Murray provided entertainment and dance music. He was a well-known entertainer around the Manning and Great Lakes area. Rod passed away on 2nd February 2021 aged 79. All the music at his funeral was sung and recorded by himself.

Rod's parents were Owen Lionel Kelso Murray and Isabella Murray, and his grandparents Thomas Veitch Murray and Lavinia Anne Murray (nee Summers) of Bunyah.

We extend our condolences to Rod's wife Patty and their family.

Here Comes the Bride – A Flood Story with a Happy Ending

Our Vice President Ian Murray, who happens to be both the Caretaker and a Trust Member of Wingham Showground, has sent us this story which is well worth a read:

“On Saturday morning the 20th March 2021, I was asked if a helicopter could land on the showground. Wingham was isolated because of the floodwater. This was not a request for a rescue of the usual kind. It was a request to enable a bride and her family to get to her own wedding in Wingham.

Calling the wedding off wasn't an option, not for this family. The flood wasn't going to stop this bride getting married. Nothing was. The story was aired on NBN news the same night and it appears to have been taken up by several newspapers worldwide.

The bride was Katie Fotheringham, a local Wingham girl and former newsreader for Channel 10 afternoon news. She is the eldest daughter of Peter and Jenny Fotheringham. The groom is Wayne Bell.

What this got to do with the Murray Clan? Well I'll tell you.

Peter Fotheringham's grandmother was Dorothy Fotheringham (nee Murray), the daughter of John and Margaret Murray (nee Somerville). John was the son of George and Margaret Murray (nee Lobban). George was the third youngest son of John and Isabella Murray (nee Scott). Isabella was the first Australian ancestor of the Manning River Murrays.

That clears that up.

The bride's father, Peter, has his own story to tell. Some of you may remember the news story a few months ago about a man trapped under fallen trees west of Wingham. That man was Peter. Peter had injuries to both legs, broken ribs, a punctured lung and his spine was broken in three places. He was apparently conscious throughout the ordeal until he was found 10 hours later by another relative, Trevor (Norrie) Murray. Trevor found him sitting up with 3 trees on his legs.

When the news of the accident leaked through, there were concerns that he may not even see his daughter's wedding, let alone walk her down the aisle. After many operations to repair the damage the trees had caused, he recovered. Through the miracles of modern medicine and his dogged determination, Peter, unaided, walked his eldest daughter down the aisle on her special day. Just to see that put a lump in my throat and brought a tear to my eye.

When the time is right, I will ask Peter to put his ordeal on paper. One Day.

Cheers,
Ian.”

Kate tweeted about the incident:



Kate Fotheringham @KatelFog · 22 Mar



Update, I made it to the church and married the love of my life! Affinity Helicopters in Port Macquarie came to the rescue and made sure we all got there. This is the bridge that blocked us from making the 5minute drive into town! What a day! #fotherbellwedding #floodwingham



To see how Channel 9 reported the story, go to:

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/nsw-weather-taree-bride-trapped-in-floodwaters-on-nsw-mid-north-coast/b2f8ed66-3d39-434a-825a-f428a488f682>

Photo Request

From time to time we receive requests through our website. We recently received this one from Jared Murray (jazza051981@gmail.com). Jared is a grandson of George and Agnes Murray late of Bunyah. His father is Lawrence Murray, who attended school at Bulby Brush around 1956. Lawrence lives in Tiaro, south of Maryborough, in Queensland. Jared is wanting to know if anyone has any photos of the Bulby Brush School about that time.

Note Re Isabella Murray

It has been brought to my attention that some family history websites are asserting that Hugh Scott, the father Isabella Murray (the matriarch of the Manning River Murrays) was the grandson of the 5th Laird of Raeburn. The 5th Laird did have a grandson Hugh, but my research has proved that he was not the same Hugh as Isabella's father. We in fact know nothing of Isabella's father's ancestry.

I have had this error corrected on the website www.geni.com, but it has been repeated on other sites. I only mention it in case members doing family research happen to come across this error. I suspect from the evidence that Hugh's family were more peasants than Lairds.

By the way, copies of the book *Of Greater Worth than Gold: The History and Legacy of Isabella Murray* are still available.

A Tale of a Bush Cemetery

In our Newsletter of October 2019 we wrote an article about some shocking vandalism at the historic cemetery at "The Bight" just outside Wingham. We reported that unsupervised workers employed by the newly merged Midcoast Council smashed about 70 graves at the cemetery, including a number associated with the early Murray family. Repairs have still not been carried out, although the Council has undertaken to do so.

I was doing some reading in connection with that disaster, and consulted a book called *Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation* published by the National Trust of Australia. You can find the book at https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/cemetery_conservation_guide.pdf.

One thing that struck me about this book was its front cover, which features a picture of two graves, those of Veitch Murray and Robert Murray. This led me to a separate line of inquiry, as it wasn't immediately apparent to me where the photo on the front cover could have been taken. It didn't take long to discover that these graves are only a few kilometres from my home in Tuncurry. In fact it was the original Tuncurry cemetery, across the lake from the township and now accessible by road from the Nabic side. Those people familiar with the area will have seen a sign north of Nabic indicating "Carefree Road". The Willow Point cemetery, as it is known, is down that road.

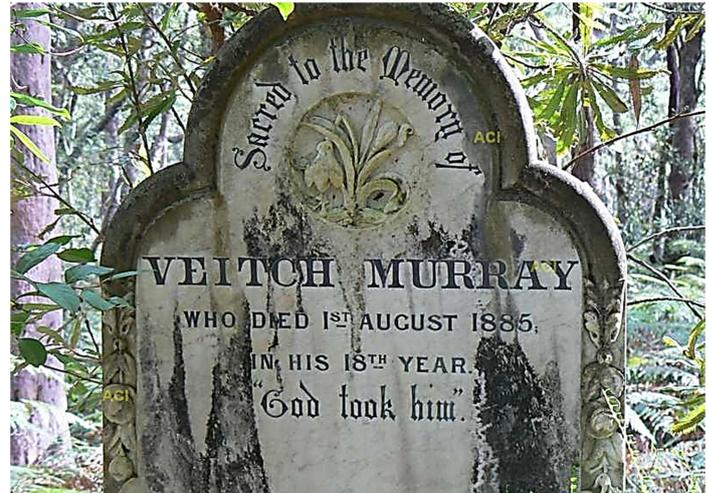
Robert Murray was one of the original Murrays to migrate from Scotland to the Manning. Aged 15 at the time, he travelled to this country in 1851 on the *Earl Grey* with his mother and four brothers (his sister and four other brothers having migrated three years earlier). He farmed at Mondrook, then at Dyers Crossing, then finally settled at Darawank just north of Tuncurry where he became involved in the community, including serving on the board of the local school and as postmaster.

Robert and his wife Isabella (nee Weatherly, his cousin) had 13 children, but tragedy struck when their eldest son Veitch, then aged 17, was helping to clear timber for the farm at Dyers Crossing and was killed by a falling tree. The family were known for their deep faith and Christian commitment, and for their loyalty to the Free Presbyterian Church. This is reflected in the words "God Took Him" on Veitch's gravestone.

So an attempt to inform myself about repairs to one cemetery led to a story about a completely different one, as well as affording the opportunity to reflect again on the life of a great-great uncle, one of the district's pioneers.



Grave of Robert Murray at Willow Point Cemetery



Robert Murray's son Veitch, tragically killed at age 17 in 1855 by a falling tree (Photos courtesy of Australian Cemeteries Index)

Veitch Murray (the Queensland one)



Andrew and Marilyn McCarron have been doing some interesting research into Marilyn's ancestor Veitch Murray. Readers will remember that Veitch was the brother who cared for his mother Isabella at Kimbriki until her death then moved to the Bundaberg area where he played a major role in the sugar industry among other things.

Veitch's property is now part of Nutrano Orchards at Bundaberg, and Andrew and Marilyn recently visited there. Andrew writes:

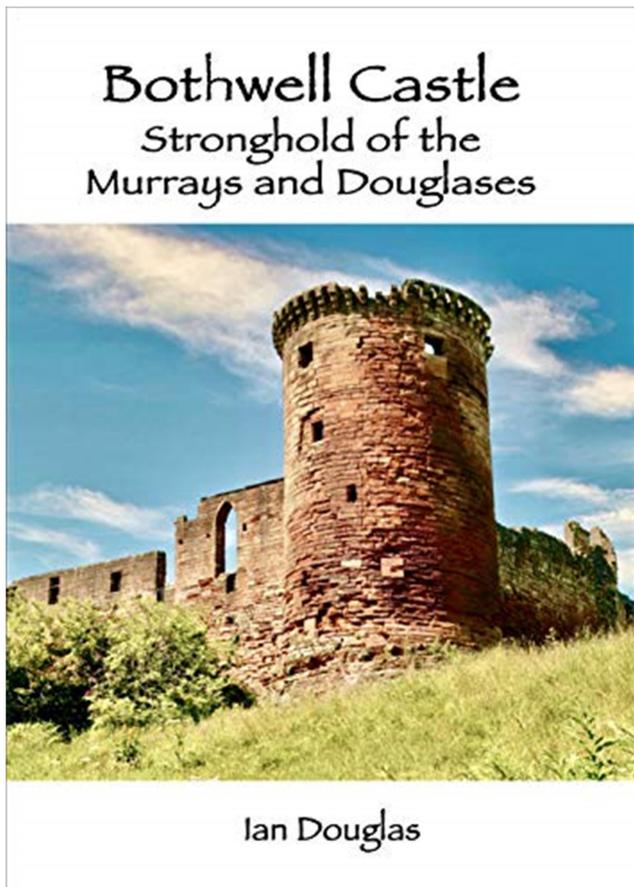
"A farm tour today of Veitch's old property *Kilmarnock* on the Burnett river, given by employee Dale, revealed on or near the old house site, part of an original shed, ironbark post and ancient vice, the only remaining items of Veitch Murray's presence here in 1876. Today the property does not grow sugar cane, but rather citrus and blueberries. They are major suppliers to Woolworths and Coles supermarkets, as well as overseas. At the peak of the season, December to April, Nutrano fly in regular pickers from Tonga for the season, and house them. Up to 200 staff are involved at any one time. I will be doing a story in the near future.

"Dale said that only three months ago, the owners gave away to permanent staff original items of farm machinery, such as horse drawn ploughs etc. The vice is still there as it is bolted down. What a find!"



Marilyn and worker Dave on Marilyn's great grandfather's property outside Bundaberg

New Book Published



We have received an email from Ian Douglas (Douglasij@hotmail.com) a writer on Scottish subjects. Ian writes:

“I have just published an ebook on Amazon on **Bothwell Castle**, one of Scotland's great castles, which was originally a Murray castle and then became a Douglas Castle when its widowed owner, Joanna Murray, married Archibald Douglas, later the 3rd Earl of Douglas. I hope it will be of interest to your members.

“The book describes this important castle, and tells its story which is central to Scotland's medieval history, and which has played an important part in the history of the Murray and Douglas families.”

Bothwell Castle: Stronghold of the Murrays and Douglasses (6,300 words, 8 images).

The ebook can be purchased through Amazon.

Blair Athol Castle in Winter



From time to time the Blair Athol Facebook page posts some remarkable photographs. Here is a shot of this magnificent castle with a backdrop of Scottish winter snow

Just for fun

Two Scotsmen are travelling to Australia. Before they leave home, one of their dads gives them both a bit of advice:

"You watch those Aussie taxi drivers. They'll rob you blind. Don't you go paying them what they ask. You haggle."

At the Sydney airport, they catch a taxi to their hotel. When they reach their destination, the cabbie says, "That'll be twenty dollars, lads."

"Oh no you don't! My dad warned me about you. You'll only be getting fifteen dollars from me," says one of the men.

"And you'll only be getting fifteen from me too," adds the other.

Three [terrible] Dad Jokes from *The Scotsman* website:

There are 10 cows in a field. Which one is on holiday? The one with the wee calf.

A Dundee woman in hospital giving birth. "Well done, it's a boy. What are you going to call him?" the midwife asks. The woman replies "Nathan". The midwife says, "Aw come on, you have to call him something."

What did the Scottish man say when the bartender took his pint away? Where did my Glasgow?

(I did say they were terrible.)



“You’ll be in charge of the music down here.”

CartoonStock.com

Thanks

My thanks to those who responded with feedback from our last Newsletter. It is good to know that so many people read them. Hopefully we can see the end of the tunnel with our Covid restrictions and things can gradually return to some sort of normality. If you can get to the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival on 5th June we’d love to see you. Failing that, we look forward to a bigger and better event next year.

All the best to everyone,

Ross Murray

President

