

Murray Clan Society



of NSW



Newsletter - September 2020

PO Box 407 WINGHAM NSW 2429

www.murray-clan-nsw.net

02 6555 9818

murrayclansocietynsw@hotmail.com

Welcome

A warm welcome to our September Newsletter. It is some time since the last issue, but we trust that this one will compensate in some way for the delay.

We are very conscious that many people are suffering isolation and reduced opportunities to gather together, so we hope that this modest Newsletter will encourage you to feel a valued member of the Clan Society, which you are.

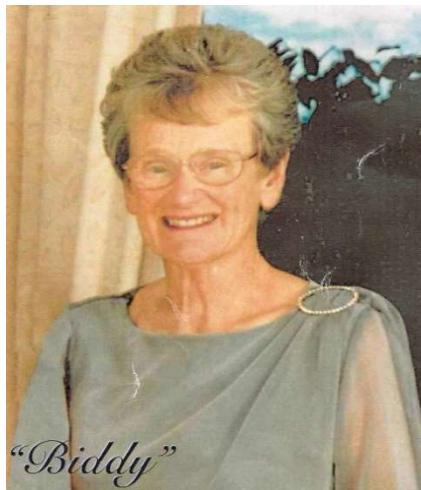
You would all be aware that the Annual Gathering planned for May this year had to be cancelled, as were so many other important community events. The Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival was postponed from May until 26th September, but with Covid-19 restrictions still in operation the Murray Clan Society is not planning a function to coincide with the Festival this year, should it go ahead.

We will put our energy and resources into a gathering in 2021. The Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival dates for 2021 are Sunday 23 May 2021 to Sunday 30 May 2021, which means that our gathering will be on **Saturday 29th May**. At this stage, we have not made any detailed plans, but we can at least make you aware of the date. Our next Newsletter will have more information on the gathering.

For those receiving this Newsletter by email, I encourage you to read the latest issue of *Aitionn*, the journal of the Murray Clan Society of North America. There are some great articles there, including one about a 1683 painting of Lord Mungo Murray wearing a hunting tartan. Here is the link: <file:///C:/Users/Ross/AppData/Local/Temp/Fall%202020%20Aitionn-1.pdf>

Tributes

Hazel Pearl "Biddy" Murray (12 May 1930 – 27 July 2020)



Biddy was born on 12 of May 1930 to Dick and Lilly Harris, their second child. She grew up at Bunyah with her older brother Henry and attended the Bulby Brush School.

At the age of 14 Biddy left school and helped her parents out on the farm until she found a position as a maid in Tuncurry. After a few years she returned to the Bunyah area and worked for Louis and Beryl Deer.

In October of 1951 she married Earl Murray and they had two children Gail and Peter. They worked the farm "Glen Atholl" at Bunyah while also caring for Earl's mother Lavinia Murray. Biddy also cared for her own mother, Lilly, in her later years. She was involved many of the activities of the Bunyah community including the Tennis Club, Hall Committee and regularly attending church with husband Earl.

In 2001 they sold the property at Bunyah and moved to Wingham. Sadly, Earl passed away the same year, about six months after they moved. Biddy was an active member of the Wingham community. She joined the Red Cross and the garden club, and was a regular attendee of the Free Presbyterian Church in Wingham and later in Taree.

She was a keen member of the Murray Clan Society for a great many years.

Biddy was regarded as an outstanding housekeeper, good cook, very hard worker and great tennis player. She is fondly remembered as a kind, generous and loyal lady and will be sadly missed by all. She was buried at Krambach Cemetery on 5 August.

(My thanks to Lorraine Murray for assistance with this tribute)

Coleen Carle



Coleen Carle, who passed away peacefully in her sleep on 8 August at age 71, was the partner of our Vice President Ian Murray for almost 30 years and will be greatly missed by her family and the Clan Society.

At her funeral one of her granddaughters wrote of her: "Coleen was not only a mother, grandmother, friend and neighbour but also a mentor, a supporter and a bright light in many lives, both within the family and within her community. She took care of others, even when they didn't think they needed it. Her heart was too big for this life and the next. Our hearts may have a hole; I can only hope we fill it with happy memories of her and the gift of living this life with her, even though it was short."

We express our deep and sincere sympathy to Ian and his wider family at this very difficult time.

Les Murray

In our last Newsletter we paid tribute to the late Les Murray, internationally recognised poet, writer and critic, who had recently passed away. Les was also a very early Murray Clan member and was guest speaker at one of our gatherings. We reported on his funeral at Krambach.

Since then we have received a report from Judy Bourke who was able to attend the State Memorial Service for Les that was held at the State Library of NSW, on 12 June 2019. This report should have been included in our earlier Newsletter, but for some reason my computer directed Judy's email into my "Spam" folder and I did not discover it until too late. Judy writes:

Les Murray Celebration of a Life

I travelled to Sydney from Thirroul by train, walked to the NSW State Library, was so surprised to find the great hall was full of chairs in rows, screens and a plinth for the TV cameras. Where did all the study tables go? And the comfy leather chairs? Microphones and media. Reporters on the mezzanine. Politicians and important people. Writers and readers. All there.

A sombre feeling was in the air. Just 24 hours before, many people had experienced the celebration of the life of the long serving Art Gallery of NSW director Edmund Capon.

The world of writers was represented. For some the third gathering in a few days. Former Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke was remembered at the Opera House. There was background music. I can hear an eerie amplified didgeridoo as well. Then he appears, the digge player leading the distinguished guests including the Premier of NSW, Gladys Berejiklian into the large expanse of the room. Silence falls over the guests.

I sit with some people who are book club members and authors who have revered the late great Les Murray.

The speeches tell personal stories about Les in his private life and his struggle to be the best writer he could be at Bunyah. We laugh a lot as stories are shared of fun times on the property.

Two screens share the stories from a child with the chooks to more recent pics in that wonderful stripy jumper. Old cars, old friends, pithy words. Many were in tears, including myself. I recorded some slides on my phone. When everyone left, I moved up the front and watched the slides as they went through again. More tears. I met a lady who missed the speeches but who sat with the repeating slides by herself. More tears.

What a life. What a strength. In the foyer I introduced myself to Les' son and daughter in law.

The Murray clan is much stronger having experienced such an immense life well lived. I feel full of regret that I never took up the offer to visit Les at Bunyah.

Vale Leslie Allan Murray, born 17th October 1938, died 29th April 2019.

Some photos from the State Memorial Service:



The Sydney Morning Herald's report on the State Memorial Service can be found here:

<https://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/books/the-poems-are-the-thing-tribute-to-the-great-les-murray-20190612-p51wvh.html>

Wingham Bushfire Support

Members who attended our 40th anniversary gathering in Wingham in 2019 will recall the fine job that Kylie Murray and her team did with the catering. Kylie also swung into action, along with many members of the wider Wingham community (including our Vice President Ian Murray and his late partner Coleen Carle) when the bushfires devastated the area late last year. The following letter appeared on 20 November on the Wingham Show Society's Facebook page:

A HISTORIC WEEK IN WINGHAM and a world of thanks to our incredible community.

On Friday 8th November, the calls started coming in about devastating fires that had started to rip through our community. Burning properties, families and animals in distress, traumatised, with nowhere to go. We opened our doors and our arms at Wingham Showground.



The Wingham Showground Trust President, Robert Walsh threw open the Showground for families and animals. The Trust team has been on hand all week, working side by side with us, supporting everyone.

Hunter Local Land Services team swung into action ready for animals to be placed.

The Wingham Show Society Kiosk Manager Kylie Murray started to prepare the Tearooms for evacuees. This became an incredible commitment that Kylie Murray gave. Ensuring there were meals for everyone, coordinating all the food donations that streamed through our door and being such a caring person, with the biggest heart. We

couldn't have done this without her.

The call went out early on Saturday morning for volunteers and all hands needed on deck. They came and kept coming, giving their time so generously.

We all worked together to create an amazing team of support. Not just for each other, but the whole community.

We scaled down our Evacuation Centre at Wingham Showgrounds today, knowing in our hearts that we have been good listeners, able to feed, clothe and assist in finding accommodation for all our fire affected evacuees.

We have seen lifelong friendships formed, families reunited, and such an outpouring of community support and spirit, that was very overwhelming.

During our 13 days on the Showground, we had one mission, and that was to create a safe haven for all that have been affected by these fires.

So, a world of thanks is for everyone.

Everyone that has responded when the shout out for help was given and spread our message far and wide through the entire Australian Community.

We ask that everyone stays safe, look out for each other and continue to keep our beautiful community spirit alive.

Regards
Elaine Turner
President
Wingham Show Society

Castle Cluggy

In a previous issue we reviewed a remarkable book "Next to Wellington: General Sir George Murray" by John Harding-Edgar. Murray's name is well-known in Australia for the river named after him and the city of Perth which was named after his electorate in Scotland.

General Sir George Murray



George Murray was a member of the Ochtertyre Murrays, and a charity has been set up to restore the remains of Castle Cluggy, seat of the Ochtertyre Murrays. Their website is www.spanglefish.com/CastleCluggy. I am not aware of any blood relationship between the Manning River Murrays and the Ochtertyre Murrays.

Photos of the Castle remains:



In an email to us from Mr. Keith Murray-Hetherington JP, Chairman of the Castle Cluggy Charitable Trust, he writes:

First of all, we have all been deeply saddened to hear of the continued bushfires and their devastating impact across many parts of Australia. I sincerely hope and pray that this message finds you and your local community safe and well. On a lighter note, I am immensely proud to be leading Castle Cluggy Charitable Trust to protect for future generations the remains of Castle Cluggy in Perthshire, once the home and ancestral seat of the Murray baronets of Ochtertyre. After careful thought, I felt that the Murray Clan Society of New South Wales and the Murray Clan Society in Victoria might like to know about the project, which is moving ahead in 2020. Of course, the timing is not ideal at such a difficult time and I shall understand if your priorities lie elsewhere at present. If you have any questions or anything you would like to talk through in more detail, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Best regards, Keith

If any members would like more information or would like to contribute, please go to the web address above.

Wingham

There is no town more associated with the Murray Clan Society of NSW than Wingham. Here is a delightful short description of the town. If you scroll down, you will find a two-minute video clip which is well worth a look. Something to keep in mind if you are considering coming to our next gathering.

<http://www.twominutepostcards.com/2020/02/03/1228-wingham-nsw/>

News from the Family of Paul Murray

Long-time members of the Clan will remember Paul Murray, the distinguished, white-bearded Patron of the Society who travelled from Bundaberg in Queensland for every Clan event, even after his eyesight had badly deteriorated. Paul was the grandson of Veitch and Anne Murray (nee Moore) who moved to Queensland after the death of Veitch's mother, Isabella, whom he had cared for in his home at Kimbriki. Paul's parents were William and Ann Murray (nee Mittelheuser).

We have received an email from David Murray:

I thought you might like a bit of news for the clan newsletter. To put it in perspective, Isabella Murray our great-great Grandmother then Veitch and Ann Murray then William and Ann Murray who had seven boys and one girl.

On the 2nd November 2019 at the Hervey Bay RSL in Queensland we gathered to celebrate my 70th and Merve Murray's 70th. Our fathers were twin brothers. This is the third time we have gathered together with some of our families, and the first time that Paul Murray's children were all able to attend. He was a past Patron of the Murray Clan. Approximately 60 attended and we had a great time of fellowship. The photo of all the cousins is attached to this email.

Kind Regards

David Murray



From Andrew and Marilyn McCarron (Marilyn is Paul's daughter).

Hi Folks, Friday 31 July 2020

We are going through old stuff and found our son Nigel's short story he wrote about his grandfather in 1993. Nigel was 12, and submitted it to the Ipswich Times in a competition for best story. He won it and received as a small gift, a Silver Pen.

Nigel's story:

My Grandfather

My grandfather is an interesting person. He is in his eighty-seventh year and he has grown a long white beard.

When he comes to visit, he often spends time telling me stories about his life as a young boy in the country.

As I listen to my grandfather I can't help but dream about my grandfather as a little boy listening to his grandfather telling stories about his trip to Australia in the 1800s and life as a young boy.

My great-great grandfather also had a long white beard.

Although his eyesight is deteriorating, that does not limit his sense of adventure.

Last year he decided to board a jumbo and fly to Scotland to visit the town where his grandfather was born. It was his first flight for fifty years. He found the aircraft had changed from when he was a pilot and flew in an open cockpit.

My grandfather is proud of his heritage and is patron of the family clan and wears his kilt at every opportunity.

In the past three years, he's climbed Ayers Rock twice and stood on Mt Kosciusko. My grandfather gives me inspiration to see each day as a new beginning.

Nigel McCarron, 12, Pine Mountain



Paul off to Scotland 1992

Andrew adds: Nigel's grandfather Paul Alexander Murray went on many adventures including climbing Ayres Rock (with failing eyesight) twice, as it says in the story, and our tallest mountain in Australia, Mt. Kosciusko (1991).

Here in the photo he is leaving to fly to Scotland (with failing eyesight) to see as many sights as possible, including the town where his grandfather was born, as the story says. Notice the A (our family business logo) emblem on his baggage, the reason is so he can seek help at the luggage pickup at each airport as a quick identifier.

On the funny side of Paul, his nickname was Pam (Paul Alexander Murray) as in his initials and was always in laughter when someone called out Pam, his head would turn with a smile in cheek, taken in humour.

Our grandson is called Alexander after him.

1990 his wife Mavis died.

1991 Paul climbed Ayres Rock (up in 1 hr 30 mins, down in 1 hr 15 mins).

1992 Paul flew to Scotland.

1993 Nigel wrote his story.

1995 Paul passed away at age 89.

Just thought to share.

Cheers,

Andrew and Marilyn.

Query re Photo



Anne Vicary from Russell Island in Queensland, another descendant of Veitch and Anne Murray, has sent us a photo which she understands was taken at Camphouse, Killawarra, and which is believed to be of Isabella Murray (nee Weatherley), born 1846, who married her cousin Robert Murray and settled at Darawank on the Wallamba River.

I would be grateful if anyone could confirm this identification.

More Reminiscences

From Margaret Tuiqereqere:

My dear cousin-once-removed, Dulcie Hitchcock, passed away in a Lane Cove Aged Care Home on 22 December, 2019 at the magnificent age of 100 years. Dulcie was the niece of Mary Moore, who married David Murray [son of George and Margaret Murray (nee Lobban)]. She was born in Wingham and spoke lovingly of it all her life.

She had a most interesting story. She told me when she was born her mother was struggling to survive and Dulcie was thought to be dead and was thrown to the end of the bed while they worked on her mother. Her mother, Elizabeth Birdsall (nee Moore), sadly only lived a few days. Her last words to her maiden sister, Ada, were to "look after my little girl". Ada Moore later opened a Boarding House in Blues Point Road, North Sydney and brought Dulcie up there. One boarder, Andy Hitchcock, became Dulcie's husband in 1946 and I was thrilled to be their flower girl.

I often told Dulce how happy her mother would be to know her little baby lived over 100 years. Dulce absolutely shone at her 100th birthday celebration last August, held in the Kirribilli Club for 60 guests. She glowed all afternoon. Her daughter rang her about 6pm to see how she was. She said "I'm in bed and I'm bored".

I treasured my time with her, Ross. On one visit about 20 years ago, I said "I think I am getting Alzheimers, Dulce". She shot back with "We don't get Alzheimers". And she didn't. Leke and I have wonderful memories of our weekly visits to her, the last being on 16 December when we all sang Xmas carols with Dulce tapping a drum to The Little Drummer Boy, and singing the words. She shone at trivia and had a walker full of chocolates as her prizes from winning at bingo. She was almost blind so they wrote very large numbers for her to be able to play bingo. I was blessed to have her in my life.

I do have to add one funny story for you. When we returned from Fiji in 1980 I often met Dulce in town for a good lunch together. She loved smorgasbords but I worried when I saw the sweets and cream she ate, and she always went back for seconds. I told Leke Dulce would have a heart attack with all that cream, and spoke to her about it. She said as a child in Wingham the kids on Robert Moore's property were told not to eat the cream in the dairy. Dulce would slip up there with a billy can, scoop off the cream and sit in the dairy and eat it. Her doctor told her due to that she could always eat all the cream she liked, and she did.

Jill Murray also wrote to us about Dulcie Moore, adding that at she had been very excited about her 100th birthday:

Dulcie's daughter Diane organised a wonderful 100th birthday party for her ... and she was very excited and in fine form then. She always loved talking about the family with Rob and me as well as anyone else! She knew all the Murray history as well as the Moores, and thought Rob had a lot of Moore genes. A lovely lady indeed and, like Marg, I really miss her.

Compiling a Dictionary

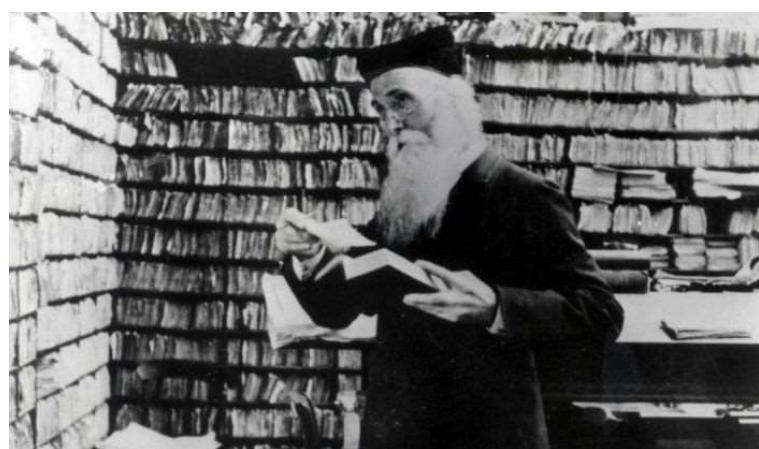
A number of books have been written about Sir James Augustus Henry Murray, Professor of Philology at Oxford and the man chosen to compile the first Oxford English Dictionary. Many of our members would be familiar with "Caught in the Web of Words" by K M Elisabeth Murray, and "The Meaning of Everything" and "The Surgeon of Crowthorne" by Simon Winchester.

James is a relative of the Manning River Murrays although not a direct ancestor. His late son Harold used to correspond with his Australian relatives in the 1920s.

"Caught in the Web of Words" is a beautiful tribute to a fine man and a great scholar, written by his grand-daughter.

Another book has recently appeared on Murray and the dictionary. Here is a link to an ABC report on the book:

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-04-09/history-of-the-oxford-english-dictionary/12010628?utm_medium=sprefast&utm_content=sf232530954&utm_campaign=abc_news&utm_source=m.facebook.com&sf232530954=1&fbclid=IwAR0PHLXQR3s8dOR_G_PYwbZAh7qhqs0CRa711kOHBh_UGV72nY4cxzSTivI



Sir James A H Murray working on the first Oxford Dictionary

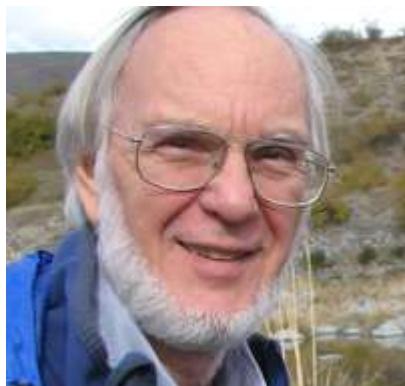
Scottish Banner

The "Scottish Banner" is the largest Scottish newspaper outside Scotland. It was started 44 years ago by Val & Jim Cairney in Sydney and is currently run by their son, Sean. It keeps ex-pats and Scot fans up to date with happenings in Scotland and communities internationally. Two versions are available, Australia/NZ and North America.

The newspaper is not currently getting much advertising funding due the cancellation of most events worldwide because of Covid-19. It needs more subscribers to remain viable. Subscription is \$50 for a monthly printed copy and \$25 for a digital version.

If anyone would like to subscribe, visit <https://www.scottishbanner.com/product-category/subscriptions-aуз/>

Lobban Website



Professor Christopher Lobban

Earlier this year I received an email from Christopher Lobban, Professor Emeritus of Biology at the University of Guam. He is a specialist in marine biology and is interested in his family history, particularly the Lobbans.

He has set up a website as a resource for Lobban descendants, and has appreciated the work that we have done here on Alexander Lobban which he has linked on the website.

This would be of interest to descendants of George and Margaret Murray (nee Lobban) who settled at Pampoolah on the lower Manning River. Alexander Lobban was Margaret's father.

The website is here: https://lobban.one-name.net/?page_id=739

I would invite all those members with Lobban connections to peruse this site. Alexander Lobban was sent to Australia as a convict for forgery but became one of the most respected citizens of the upper Manning district.

Great Photo

There is a page on Facebook that has been set up to promote the Barrington Coast, which is defined as "encompassing the Great Lakes, Manning Valley, Gloucester and the Barrington Tops plateau ... over 10,000 kms² from world heritage Barrington Tops wilderness to the glittering Pacific Ocean on the mid north coast of New South Wales, Australia."

The decision by Midcoast Council to give the area that name was somewhat controversial, but the Barrington Coast we are.

I mention this because of a beautiful aerial photograph that recently appeared on the Barrington Coast Facebook site:

It depicts the Manning River at Wingham, with Lobban Road running down the lower right hand side towards the bridge that takes you across to the property "Parkhaugh" where Alexander

Lobban settled in 1851. When you follow the road off the bridge it veers left through the old Lobban property. The original “Parkhaugh” has been subdivided, but the name still survives on the modern homestead of the current owners on the river side of the property (extreme left of picture).

Another part of the original property is a horse stud called “Lobban Lodge”, which at time of writing is for sale at \$895,000 (<https://www.realestate.com.au/property-other-nsw-wingham-700092806>).



Three Nice Short Stories with Scottish Themes

1. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-17/mystery-bagpiper-makes-impression-on-mourning-family/12553434?fbclid=IwAR1G1l02KRsDuUtJvqXN RNKPOp7COC1uP4OTswBX13H91A8Gj7NqEcd5RL0>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XHeS-oItds>
3. How to make a mask out of a sock: a distinctly Scottish approach.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4QHwNjLnBU>

Our warmest regards to all our members. We hope that by May next year the Covid-19 situation will allow us to gather at Wingham. We look forward to seeing many of you then.

Ross Murray

President

Just for Fun

"The worst case of frozen pipes we've ever seen!!!"

From a promotion by a Canadian Plumbing Company, *Drain Pro Plumbing Services*



The incredibly rare Scottish Hummingbird.



With Humans in isolation wildlife returns to normal in Scotland.



Social Distancing Tool

