

# Clan Munro Australia

Newsletter of the Clan Munro (Association) Australia

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Have you visited our Website at <a href="http://clanmunroassociation.org.au">http://clanmunroassociation.org.au</a>

#### **This Month** Blether Page 1 Page 1 Welcome From the Eagles Nest Page 1 Flora MacDonald (Cont.) Page 2 Charles & Louisa Ellen Munro Page 3 A Munro on the Move Page 4 Murder of the Duke of Sutherland Page 5 The largest Garage in Melbourne Page 6 **DNA solves Mystery** Page 7 Vale Marjorie Rowlands Page 7 Can you Help Page 8 Membership Page 8 President

### Blether

Many of you will be surprised to read that the Duke of Sutherland was murdered in Australia but it is true. You can read about it on Page 5!!

Good news that we have another new member in Tanya Carlyle but sad news in hearing of the passing of long time member Marjorie Rowlands.

If you are thinking about visiting Foulis Castle here is an update about what you must do. Tours of the castle are conducted on Tuesdays and could you give at least three weeks notice of your intended visit. Times are either 10.30am or 3.00pm. There is no charge for your visit but a donation put in the Clan Munro Association box for the castle restoration fund is appreciated. An appointment to visit the outside and the grounds is not required but please let the Castle when you intend to visit.

Contact our webmaster Ian Munro at <a href="mailto:info@clanmunro.org.uk">info@clanmunro.org.uk</a> and he will arrange your visit.

Visit the clan Munro website at <a href="www.clanmunro.org.uk">www.clanmunro.org.uk</a> where you will find lots of interesting information about the happenings at Foulis and the Clan in general.

### Welcome

We welcomed new member Deborah Walker in our previous newsletter but did nothave the full story. So here is a little of Deborah's ancestry. She is descended from Thomas Fulton who married Isabella Munro about 1825 and they lived in Greenock in Scotland. Their grandson David Fulton married Margaret Mawhinne in 1884 and they came to Australia with their two children, Margaret and Matilda on the "Oroya" in 1887. They settled in the Sydney area and had eight more children to finish with five girls and five boys.

Since Deborah's arrival we have had another new member to welcome, Tanya Carlyle. Tanya is descended from John Munro who arrived in Australia from Scotland in 1841, moving to New Zealand in 1850, but nothing is known about him or his family, other than that he was born about 1820 and is possibly from Inverness-shire. You could write a book about his son, Robert John Munro, but I will let Tanya tell you about him. The story is on Page 7.

# From the Eagles Nest

#### Dear Cousins,

Ray Munro

7/33-35 Kentwell Road

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Here again I am writing from a Covid locked in New South Wales which is causing everyone huge frustration and angst. My wife and I as well as a couple of other Clan members were looking forward to the various functions to be held during Scottish Week at the end of June. I had my kilt and accompanying regalia out ready to go to the first function on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup>. We were all, to say the least disappointed when, on the day before we were told that we were going into lockdown and all socialising was off. It is hoped that celebrations may proceed latter in the year. However, the way this awful virus is mutating this disease may be with us for some time.

The older I become the more I consider the reasons why my family originally decided to come to Australia. I am sure many of you have felt the same. Being the youngest son of the youngest son of eleven surviving children a lot of our history wasn't forthcoming to me as I was so young. In fact I had uncles and aunts who were deceased before I was born! I look back now and curse myself why I didn't ask more questions when I was younger; but that is youth.

Looking back on the destiny of my ancestors and some research I am certain that they were victims of the Scottish land clearances of the late 1700's to mid 1800's. Because of these clearances many people were left starving and freezing to death. They attempted to find new places to live. Many people went to the cities such as Glasgow where my people ended up. Conditions in the cities became deplorable leading to emigration and the hope of a better way of life. The main destinations settled were Australia, NZ, Canada and the USA.

The people who left their countries of birth all left because of reasons which were not always pleasant. When in their new home country these folk were very reluctant to speak about their past experiences. So that for a couple of generations family history was not passed onto the next.

This situation has left a lot of us both frustrated and yet eager to find the truth and if any skeletons are in the closet. As mentioned previously most European countries had economic and social causes resulting in extensive emigration. As an example my Grandmother who was my Grandfather Munro's wife was of French descent. Her people were Huguenots forced out of France as a result of religious persecution.

On a lighter note it was good to see Scotland in a nil all draw with the old enemy, England in the Euro Cup football semi-final. As good as a victory.

And finally, a Scotsman by the name of Tom Stoltman has been crowned the World's Strongest Man in a competition held in Sacramento, California.

Yours faithfully, Ray Munro. Chief Officer, Clan Munro Australia.

# Flora MacDonald (Continued)

After our previous Newsletter, I received this email about Flora MacDonald from Margaret Barden in America. Margaret is also one of the people running the Munro DNA Project so, if you want any information on that, just let me know and I will put you in touch. That is something you really need to do!!

"Thank you for sharing the newsletter, Don. I read all the articles but wanted to share personal information about Flora MacDonald.

"She later married Allan MacDonald and the couple emigrated to North Carolina in 1773. Their support for the British government during the American War of Independence meant the loss of their American estates and they returned to Scotland, where Flora died in 1790.

"When Flora's husband was overseeing the building of their plantation in N. Carolina in a nearby county, she stayed with her half-sister. That plantation was adjacent to that of my Cameron 5 x great-grandparents in what was then Cumberland County. Flora and her half-sister's family attended the same Presbyterian Church where my Daniel Cameron was one of the first ruling elders.

"You know how churches are often given names based on location. A neighbouring creek is called Barbecue. So...yes...Flora attended Barbecue Presbyterian Church with my Cameron ancestors! This is where truth is stranger than fiction. The church was founded in 1758 and is still active.

"I love this story because I am so proud that my ancestors knew such a famous person. As a consequence, I have been to Flora's grave at Kilmuir several times, plus Kingsburgh and Flodigarry. It seemed like the right thing to do.

"On a different note, the name Barbecue Presbyterian Church is so unbelievable. One has to know the back story. Between us here's another bizarre church name. My maiden name is Dorris. A cousin from an earlier generation in the 1800's was the minister at Frying Pan Baptist Church in Tennessee! I have no clue about that back story!"

## CHARLES AND LOUISA ELLEN MUNRO

In Newslette 56, I published David Munro's story of his great grandfather William Hector Munro and his wife Christina Sutherland. This month we have the story of his grandfather Charles Munro and his wife Louisa Ellen Nugent.

Charles Munro, my grandfather, was born on 21 March 1871 at Wallan in Victoria. He was the sixth child of William



Hector Munro and Christina Munro (nee Sutherland) who migrated from Scotland to Victoria in 1852. William and Christina met on board the schooner "Wanata" and later married in Victoria.

Charles' attended the Wallan Common School and worked on his father's farm, helped in the brick making works and with timber cutting on the family property. The 1890's were Depression years and Charles and his brothers earned some income by cutting and selling firewood for 5 shillings per cord. In their 20's Charles and his brother George decided to go to Western Australia and try their hand at prospecting in the new goldfields of Coolgardie

and Kalgoorlie.

They left Victoria on 15 September 1893 and sailed by coastal steamer to Fremantle. When they arrived, they joined hundreds of other hopeful prospectors heading for the goldfields. Like many others they contracted

> a cart owner to transport their food, water and belongings to Kalgoorlie. These prospectors, or "swampers" as they were known, walked beside the cart and helped whenever the cart got into difficulties. In 1893 there were virtually no roads, few



Kalgoorlie gold

field c.1890's

tracks and thick bush. The journey was long and backbreaking, usually taking five or six weeks, with the cart becoming bogged many times along the way. Prospector dry blowing for gold in



goldfields of Kalgoorlie in the 1890's.

After their arrival they started prospecting in the Kalgoorlie area. Neither Charles nor George had any luck in the goldfields. However, a family story is that Charles did find some gold near Coolgardie. He noticed that some ground under a tree had been disturbed and when he dug into it, he found a jam tin containing some gold specimens. He never knew how it came to be there but kept the gold and had it made into jewellery. Life was hard in the goldfields dealing with the

heat, dust, flies and poor water supplies. Between 1890 and 1895 typhoid epidemics broke out in the area and many people died. When a prospector dropped dead in front of him, Charles decided to leave. He returned to Fremantle, then to Wallan, Victoria arriving on Christmas Eve 1894. George remained longer in the goldfields, returning to Wallan in 1895. However, both he and Charles again returned to Western Australia. Charles settled in North Fremantle and George lived in Fremantle.

Around the turn of the century Charles met Louisa Ellen Nugent, the daughter of William James and Louisa Deborah Nugent (nee Allen) of Bruce Street, North Fremantle. William was a saddle and harness maker. Louisa Ellen Nugent was born on 18 June 1883. She attended the Infants and primary School in North Fremantle and later Princess May Girls School in Fremantle. Louisa was a kind and gentle woman. She suffered from partial hearing loss most of her life. Louisa and Charles married on 1 July 1903 in St John's Church of England, Fremantle. Charles' occupation then was machinist. They lived first in Bruce Street, moved to John Street around 1905 and then to Broome Street (later called Bracks Street) in 1912/1913



(all in North Fremantle). The Broome Street house was originally a two-bedroom weatherboard cottage which Charles added on to as the family grew. There were no modern appliances. Meals were cooked on a wood fired stove and washing was done by hand with a wash tub and scrubbing board. Clothes were ironed using a flat heavy iron heated on the stove. Torn or damaged clothes were repaired with needle and thread and lighting was by means of kerosene lamps.



Photo in Western Mail newspaper Saturday 12 May 1906, of the victorious North Fremantle Cricket Club, Premiers for the 1906 season. Charles is at centre in the second row. His brother George is sitting beside him on his left.

Charles was an excellent cricketer before leaving Victoria and between 1902 and 1912 he established a reputation as an outstanding cricketer in Western Australia. He was a fair batsman and an excellent left-hand

bowler. He played "A" Grade Pennants for the North Fremantle Cricket Club and played three matches as a member of the Western Australian Interstate Cricket Team between 1905 and 1909. His best bowling performance was 10 wickets for 11 runs on 28 January 1911.

From about 1905 to 1912 Charles had a tobacconist business in John Street, North Fremantle. The business was successful and in 1907 Charles, Louisa and their two children sailed by the coastal steamer "Kanowna" to South Australia and Victoria to meet Charles' family. He left an employee in charge of the business. On return to WA Charles, or "Snorkey" as he was known, was given an enthusiastic welcome home by his fellow cricket club members. He had bowled some balls at Port Adelaide oval and been approached to play cricket for South Australia, but he declined. Unfortunately, he found that the employee left in charge of the business had collected the business income but not paid any of the bills. The employee was nowhere to be found. It took Charles many years to pay off the debts.

Soon after his return to Western Australia Charles began working with JM Ferguson Limited, timber merchants, as a wood turner machinist, making fine timber furniture to order. The company went into liquidation in 1910. In 1913 the WA government began construction of the Wyndham meatworks in the far North of WA. WWI interrupted the construction, but in 1919 the meatworks finally opened, and was the mainstay of Wyndham's economy until 1985 when it was closed. Around 1917 Charles was employed on the construction of the meat works. The workers lived in rough wooden and canvas shacks while working on the project. A number of workers died during construction and are buried in the old Wyndham cemetery.



Charles in front of a worker's hut at the construction of the Wyndham Meat Works c. 1917. He is second from the right hand side of the photo.

In the Depression years of the 1920's, work was scarce. Charles worked for

Millars timber merchants in Perth. He was paid only for the time it took to complete the few orders that came in. Often, he would be paid for as little as one or two hours per day. On many days he received no work. Sometimes what he was paid barely covered the cost of his train fare from North Fremantle to Perth. To survive during the Depression, the family, like so many others received 'sustenance' that is, food tickets when there was no work or income. Louisa was able to exchange the tickets for food. The weekly tickets were worth 25 shillings, barely enough to feed a family of eight.

In the mid 1920's Charles found work as a wood machinist with the Fremantle Tramways. The tramway was opened in 1905 with routes extending from South Fremantle through East Fremantle, Beaconsfield and Palmyra, Melville and North Fremantle. The company built and maintained its own trams and Charles was employed to do the fine woodwork. Unfortunately, he was put off to make way for a younger man on 30 November 1929. He was aged 58 at the time.

# A Munro on the Move Episode 1

One of our members, Cynthia Munro, is on a trip round Australia and has been writing her story on Facebook. I have been following her journey there and asked her if she would write some stories of her trip for us and here is the first one.

I left Emerald on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021, having told my friends and loved ones that I'm not coming back until I've done the lap. One of the many places I've stopped in and enjoyed looking around in is Charleville. Charleville is a town of approx. 3000 people in the south west of Queensland. It's one of the major towns in the region. It was well up and running by 1888 and has a varied history with the main past industries being rural grazing, principally sheep and wool, and in recent years, gas. Tourism is now a major industry with growing importance. I spent nearly a week in town and looked at as many things as I could get to. Two things I enjoyed much more than I expected was the

Secrets tour of the former military base and the Hotel Corones. I did the afternoon tour of the Hotel with about 20 other people. Our guide talked about the Corones family, the construction of this amazing building and shared many stories from the many years of operation. It was fascinating, enlightening and incredibly funny. https://www.hotelcorones.com.au/



The Secrets of WW2 tour of the former military

base was also a terrific experience. It's a self drive but conducted tour around a whole range on sites on the former base. The main building is a museum that is very well set up and is constantly expanding. I learnt a great deal, even though I thought I knew a lot before I went. https://book.bookeasy.com/wwii-secret-base-tour/tours/95510

I would recommend both these tours but so much more as well.

Did your Mother or Father every tell you to behave, because they'd hear about it if you didn't? Mine certainly did –



and my tour was an example of why they believed that. During the tour of Hotel Corones, I decided to come back and have my dinner in the dining room, so I made a booking. Two others (Cousins with a common grandmother) in the tour group then asked me 'how do you spell your Munro'. I answered, as I always do,

'M U N R O – the real way' because I was called 'Marilyn' for so many years at school that I don't react very well to M O N R O E. Well would you believe it? Two of the guys on the tour, their grandmother was a 'Munroe'!

So, there you go, you never know when you may be running into a connection – maybe not a relative, but a connection.

Unfortunately, some of the attractions in Charleville, like the Cosmos Centre, were not open. Whether they will be open later, further into the season that starts around Easter and goes to October, I didn't stay to find out. For anyone who wonders about 'the season', the reason for the season can be summed up in one word – heat! From October on, most of these areas are going to have days over 40degrees. In some areas, they'll have many days in a row that are 40+ degrees. Many Grey Nomads make those months the southern months. Stay well everyone.

# The Murder of the Duke of Sutherland

That heading might surprise some of you, knowing how much the crofters of Sutherland in Scotland might have liked it to happen but it didn't happen there. This is a story from the Western Australian goldfields written by Moya Sharp who runs the very excellent website "Outback Family History."

John Sutherland, better known at the 'Duke of Sutherland', died on the 26th February 1895 in his own camp at Nannine, in the Meekatharra district. His age was not known.

He was a miner who was shot dead by and old friend, Henry August Muller, who then killed himself. Both men were old identities at Nannine. Sutherland was well known on the Murchison Goldfields, and was widely respected for the honest and fearless nature of his character. He was a regular contributor in his own name to the 'Victorian Express (Geraldton Newspaper)', and it was believed he did much to make the paper popular among the digging community. He was an avid campaigner for the rights of the Diggers and his efforts to improve the living conditions of these men.

Both men are buried in the Nannine Cemetery which partly overlooks Lake Annean. Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA: 1855 – 1901), Friday 29 March 1895, page 6

#### THE RECENT TRAGEDY AT NANNINE. THE MURDER OF JOHN SUTHERLAND. SUICIDE OF HIS ASSAILANT. THE INQUEST.



Full details reached the Murchison Times by the last mail regarding: the murder and suicide which occurred at Nannine about a fortnight ago. A brief account, received by wire, appeared in our columns at the time of the occurrence to the effect that Henry

Augustus Muller, a man of very large independent income in Victoria, had shot John Sutherland dead, and then shot himself through the mouth with fatal result. At the inquest held on the 27th February, before Mr. McConl JP\_and a jury consisting of Mr. O. P. Timperley (foreman), and Messrs D. Downey. Evidence was brought to show that bad blood had for some time previously existed between the two men on account of a case in the Warden's Court, in which they were both interested.

# TRAGEDY AT NANNINE.

MR. JOHN SUTHERLAND ACCI-DENTALLY SHOT DEAD.

THE AUTHOR OF THE DEED COMMITS SUICIDE.

SENSATION ON THE FIELDS.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

Geraldton, February 27.

A terrible tragedy occurred at Nannine yesterday afternoon. A well-known miner named Jno. Sutherland was accidentally shot dead by an old friend named Harry Mileura, who immediately afterwards committed suicide. There have been recent disagreements between the men, but at present the act is considered the result of an accident. Sutherland's death will be regretted throughout the field, in whose welfare he took a deep and practical interest.

### Daily News 27 February 1895

Witness and police constable Grover went to Sutherland's camp and found him lying on his back in a pool of blood, quite dead. He had a bullet wound in his left breast. Proceeding to Muller's camp they found him lying on his back perfectly dead with a six chamber revolver close at hand. The roof of his mouth was almost shot away. Three shots had been fired from the revolver, three remaining loaded. On a table was a piece of paper containing the following words: 'I have shot John Sutherland; therefore blame no one else. — H. A. Muller.' The jury after brief consultation, returned a verdict to the effect that Sutherland met his death at e the hands of Henry Augustus Muller, and that the latter met his death by his own hand.

# The Largest Garage in Melbourne

Back in September 2019, Newsletter No 51, I published Margaret Delane's story about her ancestor James Angus Munro who arrived in Melbourne from Edinburgh in 1890. He was a successful businessman who started selling wire mattresses from rented premises before establishing other businesses and ended up owning the largest garage in Melbourne. Here we have a little more about Angus from a book written by Ian Berg.

### Jas A Munro: The Largest Garage in Melbourne

Jas Munro was a Scottish coachbuilder who immigrated to Australia in 1890. He was an entrepreneur of his time and embarked on a number of business ventures. He also left a big legacy in Melbourne, the evidence of which is still to be seen today. Early business success came when he manufactured and sold a bed from small rented premises. Munro established a host of other businesses in Melbourne and Sydney. However, as an ardent motoring enthusiast he decided to enter the motor business in a big way and became an influential figure in the motor trade in Australia. From 1910, he conducted his business at premises adjacent to Melbourne's iconic Queen Victoria Market. Until its acquisition by the City of Melbourne in 2014, the Munro site was one of the largest private land holdings in the city. The Munro archives, undisturbed and unseen for decades came to light following the sale of the property. These records have now enabled the Jas A Munro story to be told in this highly illustrated and engaging volume. Jas A Munro & Co: The Largest Garage in Melbourne is testament to the life of an enterprising man in early twentieth-century Australia.

The book is due for release in April of 2021. This is a quality, hard cover book and includes many photographs of the era, the majority of which have never previously been published. It is self published by the author lan Berg, and it is of a very limited print run. The cost will be A\$50, plus \$15 postage within Australia which includes an individual protective carton. International postage can be confirmed.

If you would like to reserve a copy, please send Ian an enquiry email and he will be contact you when it is available. Website: <a href="https://www.ianberg.org">https://www.ianberg.org</a> Email: <a href="mailto:bergathol@gmail.com">bergathol@gmail.com</a>

## Long-standing mystery solved with DNA

Usually when we have a new member I give their ancestry in the welcome message but Tanya Carlyle has such an interesting ancestry, I will let her tell it in her own words.

At first glance the story of Alan Leslie Carlyle sounds like most of our ancestors. He arrived in Binnaway in western NSW in 1916, working on building the railways. He met and married Lillian Sheumack, the local postmistress, and together they raised a family of three boys. He became a respected member of the local community and a successful businessman. Unfortunately, his life was cut short by diabetes, dying in 1934.

But Alan Carlyle was harbouring a secret. No records could be found for him, or his parents, who he claimed where named Alexander John Carlyle and Elizabeth Bryant. It was almost as if he didn't exist!

I took up the search for Alan Leslie Carlyle in January this year, taking over from my grandmother, great aunt

Robert John Munro aka Alexander John Carlyle

and aunt. It was only through DNA technology that I was able to finally make a breakthrough. An extensive investigation into historical records, newspaper articles, family remembrances, and multiple DNA tests finally revealed the true identity of Alan Leslie Carlyle.

His real name was in fact Robert John Munro. He was born in Napier, NZ in 1862, son of John Alexander Munro and Elizabeth (nee Wiggins). He was also still married to Eva Elizabeth Bryant and had four adult male children - Reginald John, Percy Robert, Roy Henry and Lionel Evelyn.

It seems that Robert Munro left NZ to escape mounting debts and a marriage that had turned sour. He was taken to court by numerous people and declared bankrupt twice. In

1910 his wife reported him to police for wife desertion. He was later arrested but upon his release he soon disappeared. His family believed he had sailed for Argentina. Instead, Robert Munro arrived in Sydney. Obtaining a divorce was extremely hard in those times, so instead he assumed a new identity and started a new life (committing bigamy by

marrying my great grandmother). It now made sense as to why he had created a new name as the penalty for bigamy was seven years jail.

In February it was time to break the news to the rest of the Carlyle family. I held a Zoom catch-up with relatives located all over the world to tell them of my discovery and our real last name. It took a bit of time to process but we have embraced our Munro ancestry! And our new Munro family has welcomed us with open arms. We are even connected with the family of his first marriage.

This is not the end of the search however as Robert's father, John Munro, is also proving to be another mystery. He arrived in Australia from Scotland in 1841, moving to New Zealand in 1850, but nothing is known about him or his family, other than that he was born about 1820 and is possibly from Inverness-shire.

My family recently signed up to the Munro Clan DNA project and we found out that we are descended from George 10<sup>th</sup> Baron of Foulis, through his grandson Rev. John Munro of Balconie. My family story now has a beginning and an end, but we are missing the 300 years in between. So, the research continues.

If you have any John Munro in your family tree, I would love to hear from you. There were 200+ John Munro's born in 1820 in Scotland. Any help in eliminating some would be greatly appreciated. Please contact me at <a href="mailto:tanyacarly\_leford@gmail.com">tanyacarly\_leford@gmail.com</a>

### Vale Marjorie Rowlands

I am very sad to report the passing of one of our oldest members, I only found out when her latest newsletter was returned and I made enquiries at the nursing home where she was living. Marjorie was a very active member and kept in touch with me over many years. She had formed a group of her Munro family and they met regularly. Marjorie was much loved and will be sadly missed.

# Can You Help

Found this on a Clan Munro Facebook page and thought it looked interesting. Maybe someone out there can help. You can contact Alan by doing a control click on his name and don't forget to let me know as well. It is similar in some ways to Tanya Carlyle's story

Hi all. Just thought I would share. Being a member of this group recently helped me to find three brothers and a sister I never heard from before. One brother and sister in Australia, a brother in Canada, and another brother in Malta. All Munros. My late father was Colin Victor Munro. He married / divorced at least three times more, after he and my late Mum were divorced, but these are only the ones I know about! There may have been more wives, not sure, So, what I am asking is if your father, or maybe your Grandfather even, was Colin Victor Munro, PLEASE reply, as there is a very good chance we are related.

PS: Although amusing to read, this is a true honest post. Thank You. Alan Lowe Munro

I have received this request from Michael and Jenny Hooper from NSW who are exploring Jenny's family history. This is what they know.

Jenny's paternal grandmother was Eunice Dorothy Munro 1899 -1973 Sydney. Eunice's parents were Hugh Stevenson Munro 1871 Glasgow - 1941 Sydney and Henrietta Miriam McLeod 1873 Scotland - 1914 Sydney

Hugh's parents were William and Janet Munro born abt 1837 in Glasgow and Paisley. Hugh is mentioned in William's household in a census when aged 6 months and 10 years of age.

Any help in discovering more will be much appreciated

This is a photo showing 4 generations, Jenny's father, Russell Walter Fox, Jenny's Grandmother and Russell's mother, Eunice Dorothy Fox nee Munro, Jenny's great Grandfather, Hugh Stevenson Munro, and a great great grandmother whom we believe is Janet Munro, Hugh Munro's mother but might be Hugh Munro's wife, Henrietta McLeod's mother.



You can contact Michael on <a href="millower2017@gmail.com">mjhooper2017@gmail.com</a> and please let me know if you can help.

# Membership

Annual: \$25.00 Spouse or children of member under 18 years \$8.00 Three Years: \$55.00 Spouse or children of member under 18 years \$20.00

Clan Munro (Association) Australia Newsletter

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