



# Clan Munro Australia

Newsletter of the Clan Munro (Association) Australia

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Have you visited our Website at <http://clanmunroaustralia.org/cmaau.html>



Chat



## This Month

**Bet & I wish you all a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year**

**Remember the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Clan Munro (Association) Gathering on July 28, 29 2007!!**

**The Clan Munro (Association) New Zealand held a joint Ceilidh with Clan Campbell. It was a great success and in spite of a freezing cold wild windy rainy winter afternoon, there was a good attendance and all went very well.**

Chat .....Page 1  
 Welcome .....Page 1  
 Colin Munro..... Page 2  
 Donald Munro,  
 Bonesetter.....Page 2  
 John & Sarah Munro.....Page 4  
 Can You Help .....Page 5  
 Skye Revisited .....Page 6  
 Vale Meg Cooney.....Page 7  
 Congratulation.....Page 8  
 Marj Rowlands.....Page 8  
 Annual Dues... .....Page 8  
 Membership.....Page 8

## Next Newsletter

A little bit different next time when we will have the story of an American/Canadian migrant which will highlight the differences that our Scots ancestors faced in going to North America compared to Australia.

We will also have the story of another Munro Author H. H. Munro (Saki) and an Australian Munro champion cyclist.

And, hopefully, there will be more!

Don

Disaster at Foulis! In October there was some wild weather in Scotland and Foulis took the brunt of it. This is what our Chief, Hector wrote – “At a conservative estimate we have lost at least 100 of the lovely old hardwoods that adorned the property including the avenue from my house down to the Castle. Three of these massive 150-200 year old trees are currently lying up against the courtyard walls. Absolutely devastating. I am still in a bit of shock assessing how on earth we start to clear up but we will and hopefully when you all arrive next July there will be little left to see.”

At the end of November I had a further report which told me that the tidying up was progressing – albeit slowly. Extra workers have been employed and a huge tracked timber harvester was being used to clear the 50 year old spruce and the loppings from these trees were to be chipped & distilled into essential oils. But the main problem will be cutting up and removing the 200 year hardwoods around the estate as these are huge and a massive problem.

I have contacted Hector to let him know that we are thinking of him at this disastrous time.

Ann Munro from New Zealand thanks all who responded to her plea for help in finding Munro tartan ribbon for her son’s wedding cake and the invitations. Ann says that our Munro networking works well and she has promised a photo of the cake for the next newsletter – hopefully one of the young couple as well.

“Can You Help” section successes - In the previous issue I listed Nancy Fraser’s ancestor & found that she was a cousin of another of our members, Ian Munro, who’s story is in this issue. If that were not enough, I then had an email from Claire Johnston (not a member) who is another cousin so now they are all in contact.

In this issue there is a plea from Lynne Burns. Prior to printing I sent an email with her details to our internet members. Andrea Biddolph took the email to the Botany Bay FHS & showed it to Heather Kunzendorph who saw Lynne Burns ancestors, recognised them and now they are also in contact. We will see if we have any more contacts when the details are in print this month.

We have had a happy outcome in our search for Eric James Garfield Munro from Perth & Melbourne who was killed with his fiancé in a bombing raid in London in WW1. I was contacted by a researcher in London to try & find relatives & a photo of Eric. First I emailed our internet members (without success) to try & find a link, so then I put a letter in the Monday “Can You Help?” section of the West Australian newspaper & had two responses. The first was from a genealogist who was able to tell me that Eric’s mother had died in Victoria, so the family must have returned there. I thought that was it but then I received a note in the mail (unsigned) giving me details of the family and a name, address and phone number of a nephew, Malcolm Munro, in Camberwell, Vic. I phoned him and we had a long and interesting conversation with the result that I have now put him in touch with Pete Wood, the researcher, who is over the moon at this result.

It would seem that there was always going to be a successful outcome to this story as my next step would be to put Eric’s details in a letter which I would have included with this newsletter to be sent by mail to those members who are not on email. Would you believe, Malcolm Munro, who I phoned in Camberwell, is the brother of one of our Vic members, Eric Ross Munro and I know that Ross, who is not on the internet, would have contacted me as we are in touch a couple of times a year.

So there we have it, another three successful outcomes following Daphne Grinberg’s excellent research in finding Helen Dingwall. And as they say there is more, so check “Can You Help” for another lucky success story!

## Colin Munro

*This is the third in our stories of one of our Queensland Munro families. Colin, an extremely gifted man, was taken from us while much too young. This short story of his life is by his sister, Gail Munro, who lives in South Australia*

Colin was born at Townsville, Queensland in 1949 and travelled with his family to Tasmania in 1957 when his father, who worked for the radio branch in the PMG, was transferred. Colin graduated with honours in Economics from the University of Tasmania in 1971.

After completing his university studies, Colin won a position as an economist in the Defence Department of the Treasury in Canberra. On the election of the Labor Government under Gough Whitlam, Colin joined the newly created Department of Northern Development and was the youngest member of the team that went to Geneva in 1974 to re-negotiate the International Sugar Agreement. This was a very personal experience for him as his grandfather had been a cane farmer, a sugar chemist and the manager of the Queensland experimental sugar farm at Proserpine. His father and uncles were also brought up on a cane farm.

One of Colin's passions was sailing and in 1978 he resigned from the Public Service to study at the Plymouth Polytechnic in the United Kingdom for a Masters Degree in International Shipping, specialising in shipping economics. He graduated in 1980. The course attracted students from around the world, and most were master mariners or technical people involved with shipping. Colin was the first member of the course to have had experience in government and to hold an Economics degree.

After graduating from Plymouth Polytechnic, Colin moved to the Netherlands in 1981 to establish a company called Dynamar with a Dutch fellow student he had met on the course, Jan Meijer, a former master mariner. Originally, Dynamar provided credit and marketing reports for the maritime sector. However, a second arm of the company, Dynamar Consultancy, was formed and it specialised in the shipping, port, transport and logistics sectors of the maritime industry. The early years after the establishment of the company were a struggle financially for Colin and Jan but today the company has offices and agents located around the world.

Colin's major role in the company was as a shipping consultant and he travelled the world in this capacity, working with organisations such as Ministries of Transport, Port Authorities, the World Bank and the European Commission. He spent a considerable time in Russia consulting on the development of a grain terminal for the Port of St Petersburg. In 1995 he was one of the major contributors to the international shipping and intermodal masterclass for the Baltic States, Central and Eastern Europe, held in Tallinn, Estonia. Dynamar now has a permanent office in St Petersburg and Moscow.

Colin Munro died of cancer on 6th September 1996. He was 47 years old.

## DONALD MUNRO Bonzsætter of Knockancuirm

*This story is from a book "Ferrindonald Papers" by Frank MacLennan and published by the Ross and Cromarty Heritage Society. Sadly Frank MacLennan has passed on but the Ross and Cromarty Heritage Society has given me permission to use extracts from the book in our newsletter. I must thank Mhairi Mackenzie for the part she played in getting this permission and for sending me the book. Mhairi is, of course the Secretary of the Clan Munro (Association) in Scotland and she has been most helpful on more than one occasion. Frank MacLennan is the storyteller in the following extract and we learn not just of the bone setting skills but also of the social structure of the area at that time.*

When I was a small boy in Evanton, there were many - a dozen, maybe a score - of Donald Munros in the parish and its adjacent districts. To mention the name would bring the immediate query, "Which Donald Munro do you mean?"

Within a couple of hundred yards of my own home there were two men of that name, between whom it was always necessary to differentiate, one being Donald Chrink, the other Donald Heamish; and Donald Nore had departed this life from within the same narrow limit before I was of an age to notice such matters.

Donald Munro of Knockancuirm had his by-name like

the rest. He was Danny Knockan - we used to pronounce it Kronkan - it derived from the farm where he had been born, and of which latterly he was tenant. And it is still as Danny Knockan that we speak of him when I foregather with any of the older - and often not so old - natives of the parishes of Kiltearn and Alness.

His family had its roots firmly in old Ferindonald, the country of the Munros.

Robert Munro, 14th Baron of Foulis, who was later to be killed at the Battle of Pinkie in 1547, had given to his second son, Hector, the properties of Fyrish, Contullich, and Kildermorie.

A grandson of this Hector, one Hugh, who died about 1668, settled on his sixth son, also named Hugh, "the lands of Tullochue in Kildermorie."

I cannot locate Tullochue. This is Mackenzie's spelling in his "History of the Munros." John Munro - of whom later - writing in 1845 gives us Tolachu, a combination of Gaelic words which give an entirely different meaning.

George, second son of Hugh, received no patrimony. Doubtless Tullochue was too small to split up. We find him tacksman to Fyrish. A tacksman was one who took a lease, and let off portions of the area - we may say crofts - to others, retaining for his own use sufficient to work profitably.

George died about 1756. His oldest son, John, generally known as Ian Mor, that is Big John, succeeded him in Fyrish.

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*".....Robert was a bonesetter, the first to be mentioned as such in the family....."*  
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Some time after, Ian Mor gave up the tack of Fyrish, and took the tenancy of Knockancuirn, with the adjacent farms

of Torbuie, Achleach, and Teachait. Mackenzie says that he took the latter three, "and subsequently of Knockancuirn, all on the Foulis Estate." John Munro, however, speaks of him as "once tenant of Torabeudh, Achleidh, afterwards of Teachatt." I think that John is the more likely to be correct, and that Knockancuirn, the natural centre-piece of the farms mentioned, would have been taken in the initial tenancy.

At any rate, Knockancuirn was the farm retained, Achleidh and Teachait had other tenants, and Torbuie, which I cannot identify, was perhaps merged into Knockancuirn.

Mackenzie says that Ian Mor died in 1790; John Munro says in 1797. He was succeeded in the tenancy by his oldest son, Robert, who was born on 12th July, 1774. Robert was a bonesetter, the first to be mentioned as such in the family. He died of typhus fever on 10th November, 1836.

His oldest son, John, to whom we are indebted for the valuable paper already referred to, was born on 4th January, 1805, and succeeded to the tenancy of Knockancuirn on the death of his father.

Mackenzie writes of him, "He was a famous bonesetter, and his services in that direction were much sought after."

John writes in 1845: "Nine years since my father's death, and my possession of the farm of Knockancuirn. To which was added the lands of Upper Katewell occupied by Wm. Sim since 1815 at Whitsunday, 1844. My lease of Knockancuirn was renewed for ten years at a rent of £160 plus £2 for road money. The stock on the farm: 7 work horses, 8 cows and calves. 1 Shorthorn bull, 30 yield cattle, 20 ewes and lambs, pigs and poultry in proportion.

John died unmarried, on 11th February, 1877.

Donald, our Danny Knockan, the subject of this memoir, was the seventh son of Robert. He had been born on 15th November, 1824, and succeeded his brother in the tenancy, he being then fifty-three-year-old.

How he had been occupied previously I do not

know, but undoubtedly it would have been in agriculture. It is highly likely that he would have been living with his brother and working on the farm; and learning the bone setting through practice with John.

Mackenzie, who was acquainted with him, thus describes him; "Like his father and eldest brother, he also is a famous bonesetter: is an intelligent and skilled agriculturist, takes a great interest in local affairs, is Quartermaster Sergeant of G Company of the 1st Administrative Battalion of the Ross-shire Rifle Volunteers, and is unmarried." Mackenzie wrote this during the 1890's; his "History of the Munros" was published a few months after his death in January, 1898.

Knockan was one of those hardy volunteers who endured the never-to be-forgotten ordeal of the Wet Review.

He was a member of the Wester Ross Farmers' Club of which for some time he was vice-chairman.

Of his appearance, my recollection is of a pleasant face set in a bushy frame of white whiskers and beard. A cheerful man; the smile, and the twinkle in his eye, suggest to me now (it was not a thought to occur to a boy) that his patients would find in him that effective "bed-side manner" that we like to associate with our doctors. A portrait of him, made when he was about seventy, shows his hair as brown slightly flecked with grey. He was of average height and substantial build.

He was on the closest friendly terms with my grand uncle and grand aunt, and my father who was brought up by them and lived with them at 11 Balconie Street in Evanton until his marriage. Those Munros were his first cousins. There used to be a hitching ring set in the wall by the door of the carpenter's workshop; and some old Evantonian said to me, quite thirty years ago, that the ring had worn thin through being used so much by Danny Knockan, who always tied his horse there when he came into the village. He travelled much on horseback earlier, but by the time I knew him it was always the horse and gig.



One aspect of his nature showed in that he used to let "wandering folk" have a night's shelter in his barn, and supper and breakfast as well. This did not cover tinkers, who, of course, had their own tents. But there were regulars on the road in those days. There was the old man we called Ali Noochkan, a native of Boath, whom we sometimes saw passing by, a bag slung over his shoulder, and a grunt coming from him every few yards.

Then before my time there was "Henny the Muic," who took to the countryside with her sow and "coolans" (piglets). Somebody once spoke to Danny of the risk he ran of those people smoking and setting his barn on fire: he rejoined that they'd never burn his barn because they knew that, should that happen, there wouldn't be a barn in the Highlands open to them. But I incline to think that from such as were smokers he would confiscate tobacco and matches in the evening, and return them when they were departing in the morning. Such was the treatment meted out to Ali Noochkan when he enjoyed the hospitality of a certain Edderton crofter. That would have been the general accepted thing

## John and Sarah Munro

*This family story was sent to me by Ian Munro who farms at Rankin's Springs in New South Wales and the photo shows three generations of the family. This family is related to Neil Munro the writer – I did a story about him in one of the earlier newsletters and in fact, Ian was part of a DNA testing program which showed that all of the Loch Fyne Munros have a common ancestor and it looks as if they are descended from a Munro survivor of the battle of Flodden. Duncan Beaton, A cousin of Ian, has traced the family back to 1650 in Argyle (and I am green with envy). As I mentioned in the August newsletter, we have already found one member of Ian's family, so have a look at the photo and see if any of the good looking family members are familiar or if any of the names ring a bell.*

This is a photo taken at "Auchenrea", Bundalong, Victoria on the Golden Wedding anniversary of John and Sarah Munro on August 8, 1928.

The family photograph includes all of the offspring of John and Sarah except for the families of two of the sons Archibald and Robert



These pursuits are in keeping with the main industry of the Loch Fyne area at the time i.e. fishing. Having been raised in the Western Highlands, John and Sarah spoke Gaelic fluently.

They settled on the Bundalong property they named "Auchenrea" where they farmed and John continued his

Alexander, who had both purchased land in the Rankin's Names of those photographed-  
Back Row, Left to Right:

Jack McPhail, John McPhail, Jean McPhail, Ted Williams, Howard McCurdy, Robert Williams.

Middle Row:

Donald Munro, nursing son Donald, Annie Carmichael McPhail, John Munro, Jane Campbell Williams (Jinnie), Hugh Munro with son John, Bowman Nixon with son Robert.

Third Row – sitting:

Annie Munro with daughter Jean, Nellie Munro, Sarah McCurdy nee Munro, John Munro, Sarah Elizabeth Munro (Cissy), Rene Munro with son Peter, Dorrie Nixon with daughter Dorothy.

Kneeling:

Robert Munro, May Munro, Mavis McCurdy, Joyce Munro, Joyce McCurdy, Roy Munro.

John and Sarah Munro (nee McEwen) from the shores of Loch Fyne, Argyll-shire, Scotland boarded the 1089 ton "Alice Platt" at Liverpool on second of September 1878 and arrived in Melbourne 3 months later on 4th December, 1878.

They had married on the 28th August, 1878 just days prior to their departure.

On their marriage certificate John has declared his occupation as a ship's carpenter and his father as a boat builder.

Sarah McEwen's father Hugh is recorded as a Fisherman.

trade as a carpenter in the local district. He built several churches including the first Presbyterian building at Bundalong.

They raised eight children, 5 boys and 3 girls - Jane Campbell, Annie Carmichael, John, Hugh, Archibald, Donald, Robert Alexander and Sarah Elizabeth. All of the immediate offspring were involved in their own properties mostly in the Bundalong, Yarrowonga, Mulwala, Corowa and Daysdale.

As mentioned previously two sons moved further north to Rankin's Springs in NSW.

Sarah predeceased John by 12 years, having succumbed to pneumonia soon after the photo was taken on 13th October, 1928.

John had the following Gaelic message inscribed on her headstone in the Yarrowonga cemetery-  
MO BHEANNACHD, LEAT, MOHR.- which in English would read "My best/greatest blessings be with you."

Many of John and Sarah's descendants still farm in the areas mentioned and in new localities including Queensland and Northern NSW. Some have branched into other occupations including Science, Education and Medicine.

Names of Families that can be traced to this photo include: - Williams, McPhail, McCurdy, Bower, Cameron, Skewes, Cameron, Nunn, Bowles, Ferguson, Lanyon, Rich, and Houston.

## Can You Help?

As usual, if you are not on the internet and can help any of those below, just contact me, Don Munro & I will pass on the information – my address is on the last page.

The following little story is what makes this section of our newsletter so worth while, for we meet such nice people when we are researching our ancestors. In the December 2005 issue we had a story about William & Mary Anne Munro from Lochie Luff - the only trouble was that no one knew where Lochie Luff was. Last month, while searching a site for entries to our genealogy section, I came across an Agnes Munro from Loch of Liff and on chance, contacted Ron Bird who had inserted the entry. To cut a long story short, although Agnes was not related to our member, Ron searched for and sent William & Mary Anne's wedding certificate which not only gave the parents but showed that they were married at Lochee near Dundee and that William lived in Liff Road. So we had solved another mystery through a chance sighting on the internet and the generosity of Ron Bird who just could not let the opportunity of helping out pass by. Thanks again Ron. So let's see if we can help this month's selection.

Lynne Burns says "I am VERY new to this, my great grandfather was Henry Julius Munro, and my great grandmother's name was Jane. My great grandfather died in Tenterfield 1952, I know very little about the family history and had never met my great grandfather. His daughter Florance Ida Munro was my grandmother who I met plus my aunties Ethel and Agnus. I was told that my great grandfather was a stock and station agent around the Armidale, Glenn Innes, Inverell and Tenterfield areas in N.S.W. Australia.

Henry Julius Munro was born in 1869 at Warialda and died at Tenterfield in 1952. His father was John H Munro and his mother was Isabella? Henry Julius married Frances Jane Daniels born 1880 at Moree and their children were: Grace Maude Munro born 1889

Florance Ida Munro born 1892 at Glenn Innes and died at Inverell 1972 on the 11/4/1972 aged 80 years old. Ethel Eileen May Munro born 22/5/1895 at Glenn Innes, married George Albert Moule 12/8/1914 at deepwater N.S.W. and he was born 4/5/1885 and he died 1931

Agnus Elizabeth Munro born at ??

If any one knows anything I would be most grateful, my own mother was very proud of the Munro history but never passed it on, I am the only living relative other than my nephews and nieces and I am trying to give them a sense of history as they know less than I do." You can contact Lynne on [lynneburns@ozemail.com.au](mailto:lynneburns@ozemail.com.au)

This one from George Donald Munro tells an interesting story – this is what George says. "I have reached that brick wall in trying to trace the ancestors of Donald Munro, and this is the information which I have so far collected.

Donald Munro was born 1785 in Alness Scotland. He joined the 78th Foot Regiment in 1804 and apparently served in Gibraltar and India. In 1817 he was transferred to the 17th Foot in Calcutta India and he died and was buried in Berampore (Calcutta) India on May 1822. He was married to Isabella / Bella. I have no information of Isabella and do not know when or where they were married.

His son GEORGE MUNRO was baptised in Fort William Calcutta in November 1820 - we are descended from this GEORGE.

His daughter Ellen MUNRO was baptised in Dinapore (near Calcutta) in December 1818. She Married Charles William Litchfield (his second marriage with a son FREDERICK LITCHFIELD). Ellen had a son George Litchfield from this marriage. FREDERICK LICHFIELD was the first to travel by sea from Adelaide to establish a settlement in the Northern Territory. He named the Finnis Rover ( and many other mountains, creeks etc. Fred discovered gold near this river and is credited with being the first white man to do so.

After the death of Donald Munro, ISABELLA married James Ward in August 1822 and they had one son born in 1824. She then married a Thomas Abbot in 1826. I hope that I can get some further interesting leads." You can contact George on [munrozoo@skynet.be](mailto:munrozoo@skynet.be)

Ann Rackstraw is seeking descendants of Elizabeth/Betsy GRANT b 1829 Inverness, Scotland. In 1857 in Melbourne she married Robert MUNRO b 1828 Sutherland, Scotland. Their children were John, Margaret mar. William MITCHELL, Isabella mar. George DUNCAN, Alexander, Robert, Lachlan mar. Leura Jane McDONALD, Peter mar. Kate Ellen MONTGOMERY, George Grant. Other surnames- BRENNAN, HALLAM, HOWELL, JAMIESON, LEE, SINCOCK

Robert was a carpenter and wheelwright and the children were born in North Melbourne, Ballan and Ballarat. Please contact Ann on [annie.r@bigpond.net.au](mailto:annie.r@bigpond.net.au) if you know this family.

Chris Geeves writes "I am generally interested in the pioneering families of the Huon Valley. I came across a Daisy Belle Munro born 26/10/1896 at Black Marsh, Tasmania. (I don't know that location) I now seek details about her mother, Margaret Jane Hilder, and father, Alexander Munro about whom I know nothing. Did Daisy have brothers and sisters?" Details to Chris Geeves at [seveegac@internode.on.net](mailto:seveegac@internode.on.net)

Jan Hart is trying to trace this family. James Steven Munro b 1866 Piggoreet, Victoria, to Archibald MUNRO & Marion STEPHENSON. James married Sarah Christina Gwin b 1869 Ballarat Victoria whose Father was John Gwin born 1820 England and Mother Elizabeth Beckham b 1835 Mattishall Burg Norfolk England. Elizabeth's father was Henry Beckham exiled to Australia 1845, mother Mary Ann Sheldrake. His wife and children joined him in 1849.

John Gwin and Eliz. Beckham had 11 children, one of whom was Sarah who married James Munro mentioned above. James & Sarah had four children. Mary who died young; James who married Alice Plotzza and had four children, Theresa, James Christina & Sheila; Christina who married James Howard & had one child, Ivy; and John who married Ruby Boak and had 9 children – Thelma, Howard, Fay, June, Maxwell, Betty, Doreen, Donald and John. Contact Jan at [hartsjan@ncable.net.au](mailto:hartsjan@ncable.net.au) if any of this rings a bell.

A very brief one this time from Sharon Morrell who says that she has stumbled across some information in her quest to find Chandler Genealogy & hopes that we can give her any further leads. This is it - Dennis CHANDLER m. Isabella MUNRO 1883 NSW. You can contact Sharon on [sharonm@mildura.vic.gov.au](mailto:sharonm@mildura.vic.gov.au)

We have another query from Canada, this time from Wilmer Fawcett, so let's hope it is as successful as the last one! His family tree includes TWO Munro lines. The earliest information he have on each is:

Katharine MUNRO, born Rosskeen (Ross & Cromarty) 1798, married James FRASER 1816 in Rosskeen (?) and lived in Nigg, Pitcalnie. Katherine & James had 8 children, some of whom emigrated to Australia or New Zealand: Simon FRASER (born 1818; emig. to Canada), Christy (1820), John (1821; to Tain), Mary (1823), Katharine (1826), Finlay (1828; stayed Nigg), Helen (1830), Anne (1834). Any info about (C)Katharine and her roots most eagerly welcome!

Next we have Rupert MUNRO, born Thurso, Caithness 1812 & emigrated to Canada (Clinton, Ontario) married Allison McMichael, traveled by wagon train to Manitoba via northern US states, settled Burnside, Manitoba. Any info about Rupert Munro's roots in Thurso very welcome! You can contact Wilbur at [fawcettw@shaw.ca](mailto:fawcettw@shaw.ca)

Susan Saloom connects back to Barbaraville where the family house was called Firthside. John Munro & his wife lived there and they had three daughters that I know of – Margaret Anne, Joey & Barbara. Joey Munro came out to Queensland and in Ipswich in 1911, married Alfred Coles of Redbank, Queensland. Their children, all born in Brisbane, were John Henry Coles b 18 June 1912; Helen Jean Coles b 11 Sept 1914; Colin Alfred Coles b 26 March 1919. Contact Susan on [suesaloom@charter.net](mailto:suesaloom@charter.net) if any of this rings a bell.

Christine McPhie from Queensland has not managed to get back very far with her Munros, so let's see if we can help. This is what she says; "My ggg-grandfather Andrew MUNRO was born at Balcherrie, Fearn in 1806 to Hector MUNRO and Sarah ROSS. Hector and Sarah were married at Fearn in September 1801 and had at least one other son, George b1809. By 1838, Andrew was working as a quarrier on Tiree. He married a local girl and settled on Mull. I've not been able to trace the Ross-shire branch of my family any further back (yet!)." If that sounds familiar get in touch with Christine at [ancestry@kooee.com.au](mailto:ancestry@kooee.com.au)

## SKYE REVISITED

*Jim Munro is one of our Skye Munros and earlier this year he made a pilgrimage back to that magic island with his son David to try and find his ancestors and find that link with our other Skye families. Unfortunately he did not manage to do that but had a great holiday*

Once on a tour eight years ago Janice and me along with others visited the Isle of Skye and tarried for just a few short hours. I became enthralled even in this short time with this magical Island. It had well and truly cast its spell upon me. Part of me stayed on that place and I of course knew that I would have to return to find that feeling again and to find that lost part of my soul.

My surprise came later when while researching my Munro ancestors. I found that the very place where I had that strong feeling of belonging was the very same place

*“.....I would have to return to find that feeling again.....”*

that my ancestors lived. I had been standing near their croft and looking out over the very same scenic beauty that

they had lived with all those years ago. With this new knowledge I now felt an even stronger pull on my heart to return to that misty Isle. The far Coulins were putting love on me. David my son knew this and offered to accompany me back to Skye. We went there this August and I did indeed relive that feeling of place.

The highlands of Scotland were also on our itinerary and we started at Glasgow. There is much to admire in this old city. The old architecture is remarkable and the designs by the architect Rennie Mackintosh were ahead of his time.

We took the road North along Loch Lomond and rested at Tarbet. Then on to Fort William for lunch with a view of Ben Nevis from the top of the Aonach Mor gondola ride. The scenery was magnificent all the way up to Eileen Donan castle, then Kyle of Lochalsh and over the bridge to Skye. The red Coulins reaching up into the clouds greeted us as we motored on past Broadford then up to the town of Portree. What an imposing welcome to Skye.

I can recommend the Duirinish Guest House where we stayed at Portree; our hosts treated us like visiting friends and were helpful with information about our Scottish ancestors.

My cousin Dorothy Loudon is the great great great granddaughter of Flora Munro one of my great great grandfather Duncan Munro's sisters. Dorothy lives at Portree and was there to meet us. Dorothy had located the exact site of the crofts that my ancestors had worked and accompanied us to visit them.

The ruins of four buildings are all that still stands on Croft no. 31 of Lord MacDonald's land, the home that my ancestors worked, and where my gg grandfather Duncan was born. It is hard to work out what the buildings were, the largest would have been the



house, another was set up like a fodder store, then another looked like a stock barn and the fourth one could have been an extra room added along side of the house. Duncan's father William was a tailor as well as a crofter and this room could have been his workshop. The walls are of stone and are about 700 mm thick. Much of the stone has been removed and what's left is only about 1500mm tall.

Croft No. 36 was the farm of Donald MacPhie and his family. Duncan was living there with his wife Katrina MacPhie and their two daughters when they emigrated to Portland in 1853.

Croft No. 30 is now owned by MME Visscher - Munro, her father was James Munro and his father Hector Munro was a tenant of that croft in 1886.

All these crofts have a frontage to the beach on a sheltered inlet. There is a boat ramp and a natural breakwater, the view from this place is stunning, with a bluff and over the sea in the distance a view of the Isle of Harris.

While I did some research at the Museum of Island Life David walked and climbed the Quiraing.

Our hosts at Braigh Uige the B&B that we stayed one night at Uig, Donnie and Rona MacKinnon [they may be related] introduced us to a local researcher Mrs Mary Mackenzie and that kind lady was able to tell us more about the crofts and their history, as we revisited the site with her and enjoyed her hospitality with tea and Scottish oat cakes There is very little of the Island that we did not visit, and everywhere that we went we met friendly and helpful people. I love the people of Skye.



One of my research tasks on Skye was to try to find out more about the two of Duncan's sisters who we only knew as Catherine and Mary. While I was at the Clan Donald Research centre at Armadale Castle David went climbing in the Black Coullins. This sort of

arrangement suited us both very well. He enjoyed the walk and I found out lots of information about Mary Munro.

Leaving the beautiful Isle of Skye we motored over to Inverness where we looked in vain for the monster. The high point of our time in and around Inverness was our visit to Foulis castle at Evanton. We first visited the Storehouse of Foulis where there is an excellent interactive display of Munro clan History. Foulis Castle in the ancient heartland of clan Munro is of great historic importance to our clan, it is beautiful more like a chateaux than a castle, and it has an interesting and chequered history. The present chief Hector Munro has a huge job with the upkeep and restoration of the property. I do not know how much support with this restoration he gets from the clan members, but I am sure that any donations that may be forthcoming would be put to good use.

Our Chief's mother, Mrs Munro of Foulis, personally conducted David and me to a very interesting tour of the castle and told us many interesting stories about the castle and some of its past inhabitants. I am sure that any clan members who can make it to the gathering there in July next year will be assured of a warm welcome to an event that they will long remember fondly.

After enjoying Inverness and its points of interest - Culloden Moor, Fort George, the old bookshop at Dingwall, etc. we motored onto Perth and visited Blair Castle but found the Black Watch museum closed. It was Sunday and Perth was closed, but there were still plenty of things to see and do. Dave said no more Castles please so we went and visited Scone Palace.

On the way to Edinburgh we diverted a bit and had a ride on the Falkirk Wheel; well worth while. The fringe festival was on in Edinburgh and the whole place was jumping. Most of our jumping gear was broken by now so we became mostly onlookers, but the excitement was enjoyable, and the old town is very special, so we enjoyed being there.

Even the long trip and the shemozzle at Heathrow with the whole of the first day lost to cancelled flights, and luggage lost for the first six, and for two days on our return. My heart will ever return to Skye, and who knows so might I..... Jim Munro.

### Valz Meg Cooney

*In Newsletter No 9, August last year I wrote about a Sydney family group who meet regularly & represent us at various gatherings in the Sydney area. One of their group, Meg Cooney, Passed away in July & Noel Gates wrote this obituary which shows just how much the group thought of her and how much she will be missed.*

Meg Cooney passed away on July 23, aged 81. Meg has been closely associated with our family group all her life and in later years contributed significantly to our activities..

Like most of our group, Meg was a descendant of James Thomson Munro who sailed from Dundee on the barque "Scottish Maid" in April 1853 and arrived in Melbourne in August 1853. James had married Elspet Dunn in Aberdeen before leaving Scotland. About a year later Elspet and their 10 month old son departed London on the steamship "Ballarat" for Melbourne & arrived in July 1854. James and Elspet settled in Sale, Victoria. They had five children, one being our grandfather Alexander Munro. In the 1880s the family moved to Sydney.

Meg lived all her life around the North shore area of Sydney. For many years she worked as a consultant with a city travel agent and as a consequence made a number of overseas trips. She was an active person, had an interest in many charities and her local Probus club and had a wide circle of friends.

Meg has been chairperson of our Munro family committee for the last twelve years and has led our meetings with aplomb and much good humour. Many activities have been arranged – church attendances at St Stephens, Macquarrie Street; picnic lunches in the gardens; visits to ancestors' gravesites at Rookwood; Old Parliament House, Parramatta and of course lunches at the home of Marj Rowlands.

Meg was noted for her warmth, vitality and good humour. She will be sadly missed.

## Congratulations

Ron & Carol Munro's children are doing their best to increase the Clan Munro in Australia. Their eldest daughter Ann-Marie has just presented them with another grandchild. Riley Owen Cox was born on 27<sup>th</sup> August in the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide & weighed in at 8lbs. Congratulations to Mum, Dad & of course to the grandparents.

## Marj Rowlands

Some time ago I reported that Marj Rowlands, who so successfully brings together one of our Sydney families, had a very nasty car accident. I am sure you will all be pleased to know that Marj is now out of hospital and has had to move house - although not quite back to her old self, is recovering slowly.

## Annual Dues

Some time ago I changed our annual dues payment to twice yearly & have now reduced this again, so that all annual dues will fall on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January and so will make things easier for me. It will mean that we will not be sending so much back to Scotland for 2006 as those annual members whose fees fell due in the last half of this year have had a few months extra & will be asked to renew on January 1, 2007. I know that the powers that be back in Scotland understand that simplifying the payment of annual dues is better for all of us in the long run (especially me!!). A renewal form has been included with this newsletter if your payment is due on January 1, 2007. Note that the above applies only to Annual Members not Life Members.

## Membership

As requested, I have included our membership fees in case you would like to upgrade or perhaps give a prospective member an indication of our fees. This is not a request for fees, I will contact you when yours are due.

Annual Membership: \$25.00	Spouse or children of member under 18 years	\$8.00**
Three Years: \$55.00	Spouse or children of member under 18 years (3 years)	\$20.00**
Ten Years: \$160.00	Spouse or children of member under 18 years (10 years)	\$70.00**
Life Membership is calculated according to age as follows: -		
Up to Age 40:	3 X 10 Year Dues	\$480.00
Age 40 to 50:	2 X 10 Year Dues	\$320.00
Age 50 to 60:	1½ X 10 Year Dues	\$240.00
Age 60 and over:	Same as 10 Year Dues	\$160.00
Age 80 and over	Half Ten Year Dues	\$80.00

\* The fees charged include membership of our parent organisation in Scotland

\*\* Correspondence from Clan Munro (Association) Australia will only be sent to the full member

## Clan Munro (Association) Australia Newsletter

### Sender

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The stories printed in this newsletter are as presented by the writers and are accepted by the editor on that basis. Where necessary they have been abridged to fit the newsletter.

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