



Clan Munro Australia

Newsletter of the Clan Munro (Association) Australia

Volume 13 Issue 3

December 2015

Have you visited our Website at <http://clanmunroassociation.org.au>



Chat



In the April newsletter we had an excellent photo of our Chief, Hector from the Scots Heritage magazine. This month we have an interesting story about him, taken from the same magazine and I am sure you will agree that it paints an excellent picture of Hector and the work he is undertaking at Foulis. I know the weather has been unkind to him, so let's hope it relented enough to give him a good late harvest.

As I said in the previous newsletter we are focussing on Munro DNA and I have included Colin Munro's article on The Deep Ancestry of the Munros of Foulis. The article tells us how DNA works and Colin has made what can be a complicated process as simple as possible.

We had quite a number of Highland Gatherings over the summer and those that our members volunteered to take part in are featured in this newsletter. Our thanks must go to these volunteers who help spread the Munro word as far as possible & a special thanks to Patricia & Ke n Cotter who represented us at two Gatherings. Patricia also completed the Sydney 5 Bridges walk a total of 27km in 7 Hours with 1 hr of 3 rest breaks - all to raise money for cancer research.

I have recently learned that another of our members, Donald John (Darby) Munro is also from the Foulis line. Great news – I wonder how many others out there are also from that line. In Darby's case it looks as if further DNA testing is likely to allow him trace his family tree quite a bit further back. Lucky lad!!

Hugh Munro was the son of John and Sarah who emigrated from Loch Fyne Argyleshire in 1788 and settled at Bundalong near Yarrowonga Victoria. Our member, Ian Munro of Rankin's Springs has some information on Hugh who served in the 4th Light Horse and took part in the charge of Beersheba in October, 1917 that he would like to share with other descendants of Hugh, prior to having it published in our newsletter.

If you are descended from Hugh Munro and I know that some of you are, please get in touch with Ian at thebrae1@bigpond.com

In our August newsletter, I let you know that member Nattalie Gretton was having her book, *The Healer of Marchmont* published in November. Unfortunately her publisher has gone broke and although the book has been printed, it was in the hands of the receivers. I have attached details of the latest developments

This Month

Best wishes to you all for Christmas & New Year from Bet & Don

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Next Newsletter

Pres. Monroe & DNA research by Mark Monroe from the USA.

We continue the story of the "Anatomists, 'mad' doctors and bonesetters."

Wendy Borchers's granddaughter, Alison, attended the Edinburgh Festival and we will have her report.

Hugh Munro of the 4th Light Horse

There will be more

Don

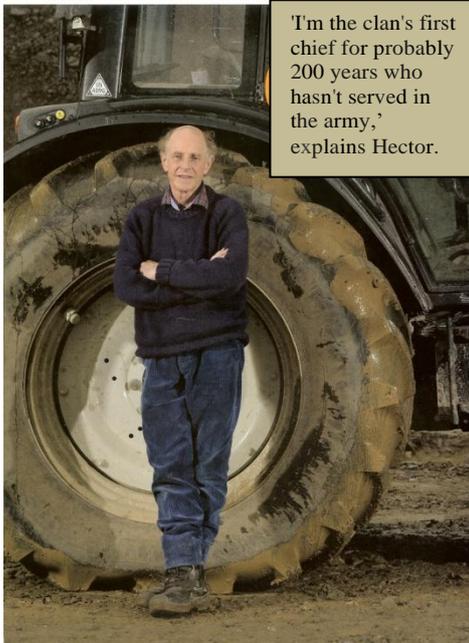
Welcome to Our New Members

Sorry, none this month!!

Hector Munro of Foulis

This is an article about our Chief, Hector Munro of Foulis, taken from the winter 2014 issue of the Scots Heritage Magazine. The Editor has given Hector permission to use the article in our Munro newsletters – it really is an interesting magazine. To subscribe to the Magazine or order back issues contact CRM Australia, GPO Box 1846, Sydney, NSW 2001, T: 02 8227 6486, Fax: 02 8227 6410, Email: scots@crmaus.com.au or their web page <http://www.scotsheritagemagazine.com/contact-us/>

Hector Munro of Foulis is a busy man. Not only has he been bringing in his harvest of malting barley while his son is installing a biomass district heating system on their farm in Ross-shire, but he has also been attending to his duties as chief of clan Munro.



'I'm the clan's first chief for probably 200 years who hasn't served in the army,' explains Hector.

'I'm the clan's first chief for probably 200 years who hasn't served in the army,' explains Hector. 'But my great uncle Hector - the only son and heir - was killed just weeks before the Armistice in the First World War and my father spent nearly five years in a prisoner of war camp so perhaps that isn't so surprising.'

Captain Patrick Munro, Hector's father, served with the Seaforth Highlanders during the Second World War and was captured by Rommel on 11 June 1940 when the Nazis broke through the Maginot Line and surrounded the 51st Highland Division at Saint-Valery-en-Caux. The capture of the division gave time for the Allies to rescue the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk but left Patrick and his younger brother, also called Hector, as captives until they were finally liberated in 1945 by General Patton, who himself had Munro ancestors.

After being demobbed, Patrick returned home to the family estate at Foulis (pronounced 'Fowls'), the ancestral seat of the chiefs of clan Munro near Evanton in Easter Ross. In 1946, he started farming in his own right - most of the land had previously been tenanted - and moved into Arduillie Lodge, the estate's dower house. Hector, his older sister and two younger brothers grew up at Arduillie while Eva, Patrick's mother, and her sister moved into

Foulis Castle. Electrical wiring had been installed in parts of the castle, but the last major refurbishment had taken place in the 1880s.

A grant from the Historic Building Council for Scotland in 1958 and support from the Clan Munro Association (CMA), which was founded in 1937, allowed the roof to be made watertight and the walls to be reharled but it wasn't until 1976 following Eva's death that work began on the interior.

Patrick sold Arduillie Lodge to help pay for repairs to the castle and moved into two cottages at nearby Foulis Mains Farm, with his wife, Timmy French. They converted the castle's 20 bedrooms and one bathroom into a more manageable eight bedrooms and four bathrooms.

Hector meanwhile had left home to train as a chartered surveyor and to learn his trade as a farmer at the then Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester. He returned home when he was 23 to work on the family farm with his father, bringing with him his wife, Alpha Duckworth, an accomplished musician who has carried out research into Scotland's cultural history.

When Hector inherited the castle in 1993, he donated the building and its contents to a family trust for 100 years. The move secured the castle's future but meant that Hector and Alpha couldn't live in it, as donors to a trust cannot also be beneficiaries.

'When we were children we were too scared to stay in the castle,' laughs Hector, who will be 65 next year. 'We were frightened of the Grey Lady, a ghost who was supposed to stand at the top of the stairs, but we were even more scared of being sucked down the huge plughole in the Victorian bath.'

'Myself and Alpha have only spent one night in the castle. We were leaving early in the morning to go travelling and it was easier to sleep over in the castle.'

Hector's mother, Timmy, still lives in the castle, along with his son, Finnian, and his young family. Their presence in the building means that the Munros have lived continuously at Foulis Castle for a remarkable 700 years. The oldest parts of the castle - a series of four 'keyhole' gunports - have been dated to between 1450 and 1550, while barrel vaulted ceilings also point to a similar age.

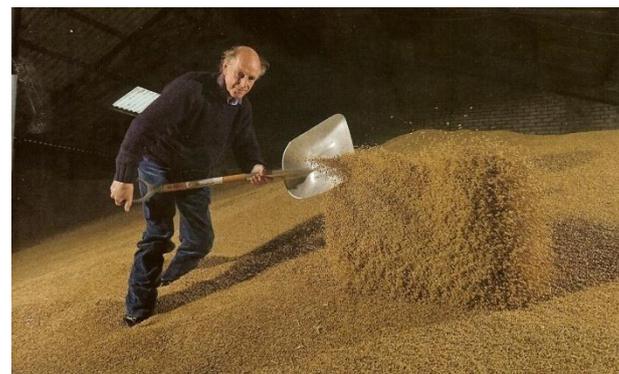
A charter dated to between 1350 and 1370 shows that a Munro chief acquired land at 'Estirfowlys', while another document was signed at Foulis Castle in 1491.



When we were children we were too scared to stay in the castle

Most of the castle's current structure dates from the 1750s when clan Chief Sir Harry Munro rebuilt his family home after it had been destroyed during the Jacobite uprising of 1745-46. Having seen that the clan structure of the Highlands was being dismantled and that a fortified house was no longer needed, Sir Harry instead built a Georgian mansion with views across the Cromarty Firth.

The '45 wasn't the first time that the Munros had sided with the British government. Clan chief Robert Mor Munro attended the Reformation Parliament in 1560 and his clan was among the first to abandon the old Roman Catholic faith and become Protestants, practising an 'austere' form of Presbyterianism. Their faith saw the Munros support the Protestant succession to the British throne and side with the Hanoverian monarchy during the 1715 and 1719 Risings.



Their loyalty led the Munros - along with other loyal clans such as the Campbells, Frasers and Grants - to form Independent Companies to help the British government to police the Highlands. These companies were eventually combined into the Royal Highland Regiment, which in turn became known as the Black Watch.

Clan chief Sir Robert Munro was the first lieutenant colonel of the Black Watch, training the regiment and leading it through its baptism of fire against the French forces at the Battle of Fontenoy in 1745.

When the regiment was recalled to Great Britain, Sir Robert Munro

was put in charge of the 37th Regiment of Foot and was killed at the Battle of Falkirk Muir in 1746.

'Sir Harry Munro, Sir Robert's son, is one of my favourite Munros,' says Hector. 'He came back after being captured by the Jacobites to find they had burned down his home and he just knuckled down and got on with it, rebuilding the castle.'

Getting on with the job is something that's obviously close to Hector's heart. When he took over the running of the estate in 1973 he bought out the final tenant and combined the family and tenanted farms to create a 1,150 acre arable operation. Since then he has bought back previous parcels of land that had been sold as a result of the sacrifices made in two world wars and has grown the farm to its present 2,600 acres.

About 900 acres is used to grow barley for making malt whisky. Hector was instrumental in helping to set up two co-operatives - the Highland Machinery Ring and Highland Grain - and customers for his malting barley include Diageo's local distillery at Glen Ord, along with Glenmorangie and The Macallan, both of which have presented his farm with awards for the quality of its grain.

Hector also manages the forestry on the estate, which his son, Finnian, is about to put to good use in a biomass district heating system which will warm the castle, a series of houses on the estate and a new grain drying barn. Drying the barley on site rather than paying Highland Grain to do it will save money, while the fuel for the wood-chip burners will come from the estate.

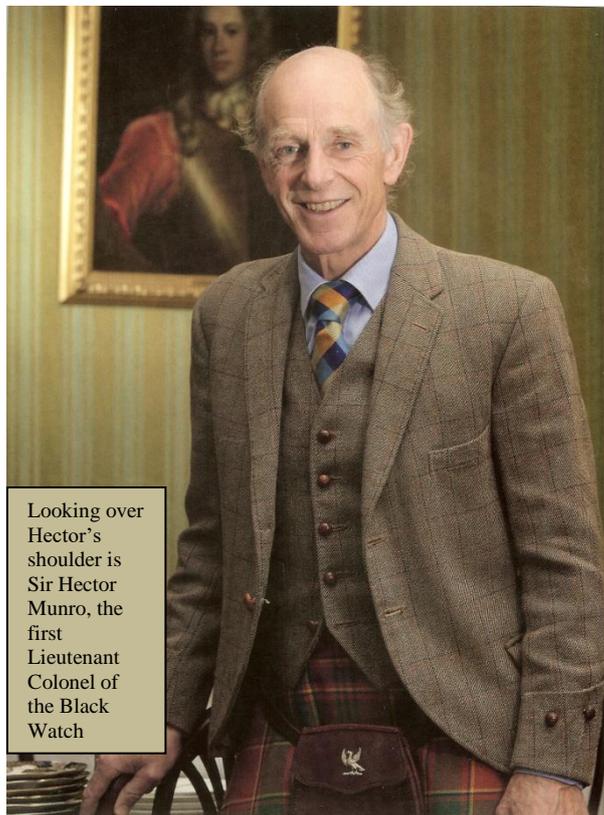
A wind turbine has already been erected at Foulis and discussions are underway with neighbouring landowners to build a Hydro-electric scheme too.

The castle itself has also been given a new lease of life. Munros from around the world come to visit by appointment, while tour parties from the 'cruise ships that dock at Invergordon have also been welcomed to Foulis. Timmy, who turns 90 next year, became a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 2013 for her services to charity, including holding fundraising events at Foulis, while Alpha has used the castle for musical performances, including a recent concert visually impaired musicians.

During July, Foulis also played host to the 2014 Clan Munro Gathering, with more than 400 members of the CMA from as far afield as Australia, Canada, France, New Zealand and the United States gathering on the ancestral lands. The gathering included dinners, talks and a hike up Fyrish Hill to visit the Fyrish Monument, which was built by Sir Hector Munro of Novar to commemorate his victory over the Dutch and Indian allies at Negapatam in India in 1781. Sir Hector commissioned the monument to create work for unemployed local people.

Down on the shores of the Cromarty Firth sits perhaps the clan's most public face. When Hector and Alpha moved back to Foulis in 1973, they lived in a cottage next to the Storehouse, a refurbished 18th century rent house or 'girnial'. After the plans for the new A9 and Cromarty Bridge were unveiled, they converted the site into a craft shop, which has now grown to become Storehouse of Foulis, including a restaurant run by Quintin and Michelle Stevens, a farm shop and an exhibition detailing the history of the clan.

'We're very lucky that RW Munro, an historian and journalist, left



Looking over Hector's shoulder is Sir Hector Munro, the first Lieutenant Colonel of the Black Watch

his collection of Munro papers and books to the clan centre,' says Hector. 'Munros from around the world can come and research their family's history.

'While it's hard for us to travel abroad because of the farm, we enjoy welcoming the clan to Foulis. We can offer clan members a sense of belonging and I think that's really important.

The Deep Ancestry of the Munros of Foulis

Genetic Origins of the Munros of Foulis

Colin Munro, Glasgow, Scotland

The Munros of Foulis have a well-documented and continuous pedigree dating from the 14th century. Recent DNA results confirm the integrity of their male genetic line over this time and are consistent with the tradition that the founder of the clan came from Ireland.

Traditionally, the founder of Clan Munro was Donald, said to have been a son of O'Cahan (O'Kane) of Fermanagh, who came to Scotland in the early 11th Century to fight for King Malcolm II. Malcolm rewarded Donald with lands in Easter Ross, where his descendants became established at Foulis. In practice, the Munros of Foulis and its cadet families can only prove their descent in written records since Robert de Munro of Westerlogy, first mentioned in documents dated around 1350. Even so, few other members of this or any other clan can rival such a long ancestral record.

DNA-based genealogy offers the possibility of identifying genetic links between clan members in the absence of written records. This is because the Y chromosome, found only in men and passed on essentially unchanged from father to son, in most cases will accompany the surname. Each Y-chromosome bears a distinctive pattern of minor variations in its DNA sequence called a "haplotype", acquired over millennia. Shared haplotypes, especially within surname groups, are strong evidence of shared ancestry.

Over 200 men have now had Y-DNA tests in the Munro DNA Project at FamilyTreeDNA.com. There are many different reasons for adopting a surname, so it is not surprising that there are multiple Y-haplotypes amongst clan members tested in the Project, but several clusters of related men share a few signature haplotypes. The majority of these belong to one or other branch of the commonest European "haplogroup" (called R1b), but around 30 samples have a signature pattern which predicts they are of a distinct haplogroup called I2a-L161 (see below). The bearers of this uncommon haplotype include documented descendants of the Munros of Foulis and Obsdale, but also descendants of the three Alexander Monros, the famous dynasty of Edinburgh anatomists and surgeons. The latter, of the cadet family of Auchinbowie in Stirlingshire, are descended from John Munro of Milntown. John was the second son of Hugh Munro of Foulis, who died about 1425, and grandson to the above-mentioned Robert. As the Foulis/Obsdale line are the descendants of Hugh's eldest son George, Hugh himself must have carried it. We can be confident that this has been the haplotype of the Munros of Foulis since at least the 14th century, and probably longer.

US President James Monroe is thought to be descended from a later Foulis cadet family, that of Katewell. As Mark Monroe has recently reported, the finding that a male-line descendant of James Monroe's great-grandfather has the I2a-L161 haplotype proves descent from the Munros of Foulis. Thanks to these DNA studies, Munros, Munroes, Monros or Monroes throughout the world - in North and South America, Australia and New Zealand, as well as in the United Kingdom - can also claim descent from this ancestral line.

Occasional minor haplotype variations due to mutation can be used to construct a possible tree of inter-relationships within a group of related men, and to identify the most likely haplotype of the founder of the line. Based on the number of mutations which have taken place, it is estimated that the most recent common male ancestor of all the Munro of Foulis line lived about 22 generations - about 700 years - ago. This figure is accurate only to a few hundred years either way but is consistent with the fact that Robert Munro, 6th baron, lived 17-19 generations before his recorded descendants who have been tested. Moreover, since I2a-L161 is rare, the presence of closely similar haplotypes in other families indicates common ancestry. Many of these families have Irish surnames, amongst which the largest number of matches is found not among the O'Kanes but among the O'Driscoll family of Cork (see Figure 1). A male ancestor common to both families is estimated to have lived about 1500 years ago, in the pre-surname era, almost certainly in what is now Ireland.

Because haplotypes show these occasional slight changes, they are not completely reliable in establishing relationships, but the Y-chromosome haplogroup they predict can be tested. Haplogroups are defined by an accumulation of rare tiny DNA mutations called SNPs. Each new Y-SNP is

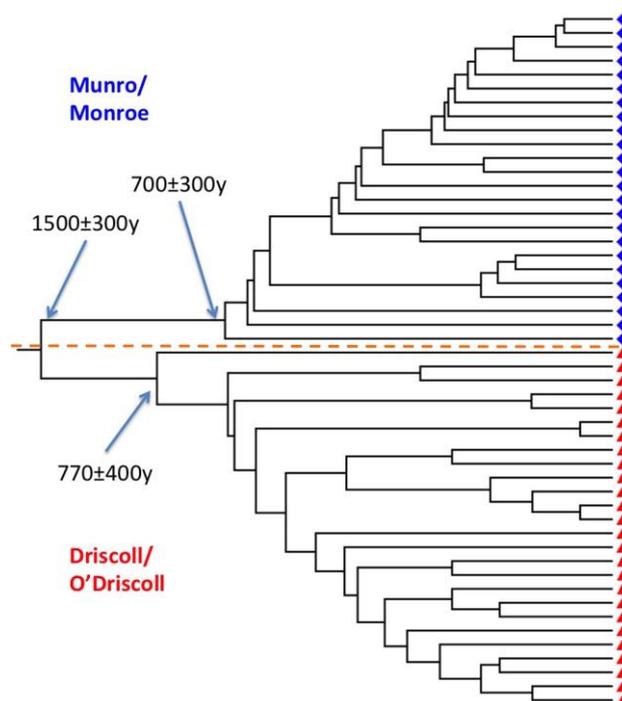


Figure 1: Minor haplotype variations used to construct one possible relationship tree of the Munros of Foulis and the O'Driscolls of Cork.

stably transmitted to all subsequent male descendants and so collectively SNPs form a record of the entire genetic history of the male ancestral line of the bearer. Direct testing confirms the prediction that the Munros of Foulis belong to a sub-branch of Haplogroup I identified by a major SNP called L161. Haplogroup I is thought to have emerged in the Balkans about 17,000 years ago. Some of its bearers, of subgroup I2a, migrated westward after the end of the Ice Age. The further subgroup I2a-L161 dates from about 11,000 years ago. It is now commonest in Western Ireland where it is found in up to 10% of men (Figure 2). A more recent SNP, PF4135, occurred about 6,600 years ago and is found in the Munros of Foulis and the O'Driscolls of Cork.

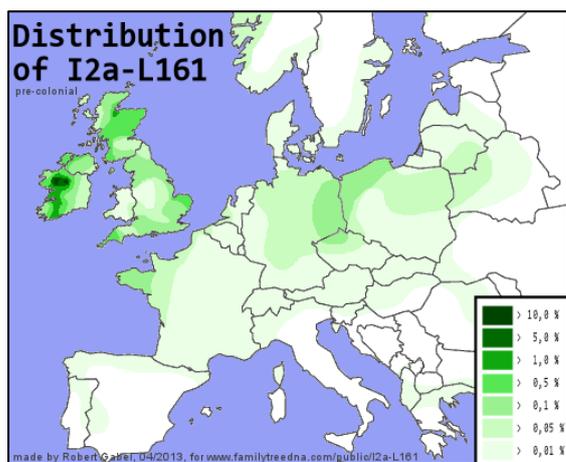


Figure 2: Pre-colonial distribution of I2a-L161, the haplogroup to which the Munros of Foulis belong. Courtesy of Robert Gabel-Ulrich, I2a-L161 project administrator, Family Tree DNA.

In the last few years it has become practical to identify all SNPs in single individuals at each of 10 million or more Y-chromosome DNA positions. To date, four I2a-L161 men called Munro or Monroe, but not otherwise known to be related, have been tested in this way. All four men were found to share about twenty thousand SNPs, but of these only two were not present in any of three I2a-L161 men with other surnames who have taken this test. These two SNPs may thus define the Munro of Foulis line genetically. They were almost certainly present in the common male ancestor of all Munros of Foulis, though he may not himself have been called Munro. In addition, each of the four men has between 2 and 6 SNPs unique to himself. These will have occurred sequentially since their unknown common ancestor, also predicted to have lived about 700 years ago, near the base of the “Munro tree”.

As noted above, other clusters of men in the project share different male-line ancestries, which while distinct from the Foulis line may be equally ancient in the clan. However, the Y chromosome has few significant genes other than those that determine gender, and every individual’s genetic make-up is inherited from many different ancestors on both maternal and paternal sides. Families from a circumscribed area like Easter Ross will have many genes in common irrespective of their haplogroup; any shared characteristics are more likely to be due to the small genetic pool than the shared Y chromosome. To date, Y-DNA haplotypes have instead been useful in understanding population movements in pre-history. As project data is accumulated by testing of more individuals, whether from historically documented families or not, Y-haplotypes compared between participants will be increasingly helpful in determining potential relationships, establishing correspondences with documented families, and overcoming gaps in the genealogical record.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Margaret Bardin and DeAnne Monroe Steely, co-administrators of the Munro DNA Project, Colin Ferguson of the Driscoll project, and Bernie Cullen and Zdenko Marcovic of the I2a-P37.2 Project, all at FamilyTreeDNA.com, for help and advice, and also to all those who have participated and allowed their test results to be available for this analysis.

Technical details

DNA testing: DNA for testing is extracted from brushings of the inside of the mouth. Two kinds of variation in the DNA code are studied, STRs and SNPs.

Haplotypes are based on **STRs** (Short Tandem Repeats): segments of DNA code with a repetitive motif. Usually the correct number of repeats is copied between generations but occasionally one is miscounted. These errors occur about once in 500 generations for each STR. STR mutations may happen more than once and are unstable, so they do not always prove relationships.

The haplotype is expressed as a series of numbers (13, 25, 15, 11....) obtained by counting repeats in a selected set of STRs. Between 37 and 111 STRs on the Y-chromosome are usually studied. Men who have a similar or identical haplotype are likely to be closely related, especially if they have the same surname.

SNPs (Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms) are one “letter” changes in the DNA code. New SNPs happen much more rarely than STR mutations, about one in 3 million DNA positions per generation, but each is unique and is given a name e.g. L161. Mostly they have no effect, but once they have occurred they are passed on to every generation thereafter, so that every man’s Y-chromosome contains a history of his ancestors’ successively occurring SNPs since “Adam”. Shared SNPs indicate common ancestry up to the time they occurred, and differences, subsequent separate ancestry.

Haplogroups are ancestral groups recognised by accumulated SNPs. The oldest groups are given letters – A, B, C etc. Subsequent subgroups are given alternating numbers and letters, like I2, I2a, I2a1 etc., or the name of the most recent major SNP e.g. I-L161.

Glen Innes Gathering

John Alexander Munro attended the Australian Celtic Festival in Glen Innes and he sent us his report and photos of the gathering. John, looking very happy, is carrying the Munro banner lovingly made by his Aunt, Marjory Rowlands, a long time memory of the Clan.

This was my second time at the Australian Celtic Festival held in Glen Innes around and including the first weekend in May. Glen Innes is on the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales so in the last stages of Autumn it provides a most wonderful atmosphere. Last year I experienced very cold temperatures with drizzle and mist. This time it was warmer but

with heavy rain, mostly at night, and thus, corresponding soft ground and mud.



It is difficult at times to remember that it is a Celtic festival and not just a time and a place for the Scots to go public with their dress, music and dance. They are the dominant force up there with the sound of pipes and a view of tartan everywhere. Each year has a geographical theme. Last year it was Cornwall. This year Wales was celebrated and 2016 takes its hat off to the Isle Of Man. As well as these four areas, the Celts are recognized in Ireland, Brittany in France, and Galicia and Asturias in northern Spain.

The official start of the festival began in the town hall on the Friday morning. I had the honour of being part of the opening ceremony that paraded into the town hall along with other clan banners and town dignitaries. The Munro banner had been provided by my dear aunt, Marjorie Rowlands. The mayor welcomed all to Glen and the festival.

After some very heavy overnight rain, Saturday's sky was an encouraging bright blue. The parade up the main street would go ahead.

It was not difficult to locate the assembly point as it was full of pipers, dancers, bands and various clan banners surrounded by loyal clanspersons. Lots of others were dressed in various outfits depicting ancient Celts and Vikings. They were kept far enough apart to lessen the chance of a violent incident. To my discredit, I was the only banner bearer not dressed in traditional Scottish attire. I could only proudly display our colours with a scarf and a tie, and our crest with a badge and a pair of cuff links. The procession was full of music and movement, proceeding up one side of the street and then returning down the other. I felt very proud as I occasionally heard a Munro call out from the crowd as I passed. After these formalities, the bands took over and entertained.

It was then time to head up to the Standing Stones where the main part of the daylight Festival happens on Saturday and Sunday. These are located in an area above the town and consist of forty granite boulders, each 3.7 metres above the ground, weighing an average of 17 tonnes. They are positioned in a circle with a few used as solstice and directional markers. Throughout the year this area is used to celebrate the national days of the eight Celtic countries and areas. For this weekend the area comprised three marquees for the singers and bands, stage areas for dancers, and numerous tents and vans selling food, memorabilia and trinkets. Between these facilities, all the rain and pedestrians had created rivers of mud that widened and deepened as each hour passed. Loads of imported sawdust helped to maintain each thoroughfare. Other activities included pipe bands, strongman events, workshops, poetry, sheepdog championships and numerous battles between those Vikings and Celts. Away from the Stones there were opportunities to play golf, appreciate Celtic art, listen to a talent quest, and watch a kilned Rugby match. There is an annual awards' night for the recording artists and a number of town venues provide live music.



Brigadoon at Bundanoon



Patricia and Ken Cotter were our representatives at the Bundanoon Gathering and they did a great job spreading the Munro word. They gave our details to a number of interested Munros but unfortunately nothing came of this. Patricia & Ken have already volunteered to be our representatives at the next Canberra Gathering. The trouble with sitting in the clan tent is that you may not get to see as much of the gathering as you might want. Fortunately, another of our members, Graham Gates and his family were also there and he prepared a report for me and this is what he wrote.



The staging of the Scottish Highland Gathering of "Brigadoon" took place at Bundanoon (NSW) on April 11 and was held under ideal conditions. It was the 38th anniversary of the event and now has the reputation of being the largest Highland Gathering of its kind in the country.



The proceedings for the day commenced with a parade of bands and marchers through the streets of the village to the town oval where the games and events take place.

More than 10,000 spectators assembled to the carnival atmosphere with Highland games displays, Highland dancing, band performances (there being in all 20 district pipe bands



represented) caber and hay tossing, dog obedience classes, to mention a few and concludes with the much anticipated strong man event of the lifting of the Bundanoon Stones undertaken by the Tartan Warriors. The five round stones, made from Bundanoon sandstone, ranging in weight from 115kg to 165kg.

Around the oval some 100 stalls have been erected to sell Scottish items and memorabilia, souvenirs, music and foodstuff. A separate section is set aside for the clan tents and stalls. With some thirty separate clans represented. Among these was the Clan Munro tent manned by Ken and Patricia Cotter from Kiama on the South Coast of NSW.

Following the inspiring parade of the massed bands across the oval the day concluded with the dulcet tones of the Lone Piper wafting over the Gathering and played by Dr. Stephen Ross of a tune composed by him and dedicated to the Anzac memory called "Brigadoon remembers 100 years"

The Fassifern Highland Gathering

John Jackson and Helen Clarke represented us at the Fassifern Highland Gathering and what a different gathering it was. Clydesdale horses were the star attractions and Bet and I would love to have been there as we just love Clydesdales.



The well attended gathering took place over two days. The weather was good and there were Clydesdale events on both days with a competition for pure bred Clydesdales, ploughing and heavy horses in harness. Of course we had massed pipe bands, lovely highland dancing and Scottish music. On Saturday night there was a camp fire dinner, ceildh and a fire show. The whip plaiting was very interesting and the whip cracking spectacular.



Each Clan paraded behind a Clydesdale horse and a Cameron piper. You may ask why a Cameron piper – well, the Camerons settled Fassifern, the first being John Cameron of Fassifern. He was the son of Sir Ewan Cameron one of the sons of Sir Ewan Dubh Cameron the 17th Chief of the Clan Cameron and the 5th of Lochiel. Who would have loved that is the late Lynette Munro wife of the late Colin (CAP) Munro, as she was a very proud Cameron.

Armadale (WA) Highland Gathering

That's Bet on the left on her way to the opening procession and on the right I am joined by my granddaughter Melanie and her German boyfriend in the Wallace tartan. The games featured the Kilt Run, an event started by the City of Perth in Canada & now an annual event in our Gathering. The day was good although a bit windy and somewhat damp underfoot as it had rained heavily the day before (The day the Dockers beat the Sydney Swans!!) As well as the Scottish food & craft



stalls we had the ever popular pipe bands – six this year – and the lovely highland dancing. The heavy events drew big crowds as did the Medieval Fair with knights in armour doing battle. On the main stage we had four Scottish bands as well as the "toast to the haggis." This year we had the Westie Club the first time with the "Westies" in their kilts and the crowds loved them.

Anzac Day – Sydney 2015



Once again Graham Gates and his family organised the wreath laying party for the Sydney Anzac Day parade. This year Tom Gates laid the Munro wreath and as you can see, we could not have wished for a more handsome representative. Thank you Tom.

Record crowds turned out in Sydney for the Anzac Day to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the landing of Australian forces on Gallipoli shores in 1915.

Along with many other ceremonies on the day, the main march through the streets of the City commenced at 9AM. Some 20,000 personnel took part in the parade involving veterans, ex-service men and women and others. The parade proceeded well after mid-day before coming to an end. At the conclusion of the main parade all 20 Scottish pipe bands participating on the day assembled



at the Town Hall in order to march down George Street for the enactment of "The Scottish Act of Remembrance" culminating in a wreath laying ceremony at the cenotaph in Martin Place.

This year the wreath laying party comprised thirty six representatives from the various clans, societies and dance groups who laid their wreaths at the cenotaph whilst the pipes played "The Lament." To the witnesses it was a solemn and moving occasion. The Clan Munro (Association) of Australia has been in these events over a number of years and our representative this year was Tom Gates, a 16 year old cadet sergeant of the Shore School at North Sydney.

Canberra Highland Gathering & Scottish Fair

Patricia and Ken Cotter appear for the second time as they also represented us at the Canberra Gathering

Scottish house gave me a position in their tent to place my table and there was a sign Clan Munro right above it. I covered my table with a Clan Munro shawl and on it I had a plaque of the Munro Crest. At the front of the table were the Clan Munro information sheets and joining forms and the Clan Munro newsletters were also clearly displayed. There was also a folder of The history of the clan and general information about Foulis Castle. People showed interest in the above as well as the book of tartans but only one person of Munro descent came the whole day - Elizabeth Munro who attended the Munro Gathering in 2014.

Representatives of the clans who had banners marched in the opening parade. It was a smaller gathering than Bundanoon but we were right beside the action and the weather was very pleasant although it became quite hot midday.

After helping Scottish House to pack up, Ken and I joined Clan Farquharson and members of other clans for dinner at a restaurant in Canberra. Discussion during the meal suggested that we contact Munros in the area beforehand by phone or letter re time and date of gathering and it was also suggested that we use the internet to advertise that a representative of the Munro Clan would be present.



Can You Help

Alex Munro is trying to find his Australian ancestors. William John Munro married Henrietta Macrae in 1797 in Ross-shire; their son Hugh Munro born 1816 in Rosskeen, married Isabella Munro; their son John Munro was born in 1855 in Inverness married Agnes Carr, John died in Woolahra NSW, so he was the one who migrated to Australia; their son Fredrick Munro born 1880 in Sydney married Kate Anna Harris, he died in Dunedin NZ so he migrated to NZ from Australia. Frederick's siblings were John, Sydney and Christina and they all stayed in Australia. If you can help Alex, contact him at alexwmunro1992@gmail.com and let me know what you have found. If you have no computer, let me know & I will get in touch with Alex.

Membership

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

Clan Munro (Association) Australia Newsletter

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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.