



# Clan MacLennan Association Australia

## Melbourne

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**CHIEFTAIN:** GREGORY SCOTT MacLENNAN

NEWSLETTER NO. 75

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## OUR 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY!!!

Dear Clansfolk,

On the 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2003 our Association turned 25 years of age . - The major driving force in the initial recruitment of members and formation of our Association was from two ladies - to whom we all owe a deep debt of gratitude.

These ladies were **Elsie Smith, (nee Logan)** who was our first President from 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1978 to 17<sup>th</sup> May, 1981 when she stood down due to ill health and I became President, but she remained on the Committee until she passed away on 25 August, 1990; the other lady was **Olive MacLennan** who became our first Secretary from 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1978 until 30 June, 1996 when she stepped down, but has remained and still serves on the Committee at 91 years of age, (still the bright and astute “young lady” she has always been). The Committee elected at our inaugural Foundation



The late Elsie Smith



Olive MacLennan

Meeting held at the Lady Janet Clark Rotunda in the Queen Victoria Gardens, Melbourne was comprised of - Elsie Smith (Pres); Graeme McLennan (Vice-Pres.); Olive MacLennan (Sec.); Max McLennan (Treas.); Carol Gray (nee McLennan); Robert Logan; Mary McLennan; Leonie Michailidis (nee Logan); Barbara Nash (nee MacLennan); Olga Taylor (nee Logan); and our Patron was Sir Ian McLennan, K.C.M.G., K.B.E.

The celebration of our 25 years will be at our **Silver Jubilee Luncheon on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2003 at the “Sherwood Receptions”, 1000 Somerton Road, Greenvale, Vic. from 12 noon to 4.30pm. (Melway Map 178 C6 – Oaklands Hunt Club).**

This venue is a 130 year old historic homestead that is set in 400 acres of natural bushland. The room radiates an “old world ambience” and features two large open fireplaces and Tudor ceilings. The gardens with two large fountains, a spacious paved courtyard, all complimented with outdoor lighting, are a real feature of the venue.

A RED CROSS MEANS you are unfinancial for the year 2001/02. Please forward back payment with your 2002/03 Membership Fee which was due on 1/5/2002. Your 2003/04 Membership Fee was due 1/5/03  
**ANNUAL FEE: \$22.00 LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$250.00 Plus Voluntary yearly levy of \$6.00.**

This Celebratory Luncheon will take the form of - Pre-luncheon drinks with hot and cold Savouries & Canapés, Entrée, Main, Sweets and Tea or Coffee. Liquor beverages comprising Champagne, heavy and light beer, quality bottled red and white wines, soft drinks, juice, mineral water plus port with the tea/coffee. The all inclusive price is \$55 per person. (*A booking form to reserve your place is enclosed with this newsletter.*) In addition to all this, our **Chief Ruairidh Donald George MacLennan of MacLennan will be coming from Scotland to attend this Celebration and join with us in our festivities.** - Your whole-hearted support and attendance at this Luncheon is needed to make it the success it should be and to honour our young Chief Ruairidh.

This year is also the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NSW/ACT, who unfortunately are experiencing difficulties maintaining their activities. Their Committee has served their members and the Clan well over a long period of time, but with advancing years they are in need of relief.

There is a **great opportunity here for some younger energetic members in NSW/ACT to step up and take on the mantle of leadership and service to their Clan.** Are there any of you out there willing to use your ability and energy for the benefit of your Clan??

Our Clan web-site <[www.clan.maclennan.com](http://www.clan.maclennan.com)> has been re-developed and has been available to view since early May. There are still some areas requiring more information but it was considered that we should 'soft launch' it now to achieve some benefits asap. - Our sincere thanks go to Bruce McLennan (NSW) and David Jones (Florida) for all the expert work and extensive time they have both put into developing our World Site. - We now have an initial and very good Web presence that will continue to be developed further. (*See article by Bruce McLennan*).

Your Committee has formed a **Sub-Committee to write a new constitution for our Association** which is needed to meet the requirements of the Dept. of Consumer & Business Affairs, so that we are able to **be Incorporated.** When this has been written and approved by your Committee you will be notified of a Special General Meeting called for our financial members to vote on adoption of the new constitution.

In the wake of "September 11" **Public Liability Insurance** became a fiasco and the premium costs prohibitive. However, from the 30 June 2003, we will, through the Scots of Victoria Co-ordinating Group, participate in the Life Planning Foundation of Australia (LPFA) policy (arranged through the Victorian Government's Dept. of Human Services with the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority) with a \$20 million cover for Public and Products liability (World -wide except USA and Canada), and for Accident Insurance throughout Australia.

In addition to our Association and Committee being covered by this policy, **any of our own financial Victorian resident members are also able to have this cover themselves upon payment of an Annual premium (\$6 per person for year ending 30/6/04),** which also entitles them to other LPFA benefits and membership.

*If you are interested in this insurance cover please contact us and you will be mailed more detailed information.*

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May a contingent of our Clan Members from around Victoria travelled to Rutherglen and joined with the locals for "**The Scots O' the Murray**" 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner at the **Café@Rutherglen Wine Experience.** This was an



Julian Bellamy

exceptionally enjoyable and enchanting Scottish evening, which our words cannot adequately describe. Our Clan had 20 attending and all have vowed to return again next year. On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May a Clan Gathering was held at the home of Jeanette and Brian Jasper in Rutherglen, with 22 attending a most enjoyable BBQ lunch with additional food and hospitality by the Jasper's. A GREAT DAY for which we owe Jeanette and Brian our gratitude and thanks. (see article.)

**Our Gathering at the Ringwood Highland Gathering and Games on 30<sup>th</sup> March** was again very well attended and enjoyed by many of our Clansfolk. It was very pleasing to see so many of you throughout the day. - During that day we were visited by our 2001 & 2002 MacLennan Piping Trophy winner, Julian Bellamy who will again play his pipes for us at our AGM/Ceilidh



Brian & Jeanette with Piper Felicity Splieth

The sad note for us all was the absence of our late John Cooper “Chief of the Gathering and Games” for the 5 years from 1998 to 2002. On the brighter side, a good Scottish friend of John and Mary, the Rev. Dr. John F. Scott AO, was inducted as the new “Chief” by Sue Macleod (Chairman & Organiser) with the Hon. Sir Rupert Hamer AC, K.C.M.G., ED (“Chieftain of the Gathering and Games”).

**Our next Gathering for 2003 will be our AGM/Ceilidh on 15<sup>th</sup> June** at the Burwood Heights Uniting Church Hall, Cnr. Burwood Hwy and Blackburn Rd. (Melway Map 61K7). At 1pm we will all join together for a ‘**Bring a Plate of Fingerfood and Share Lunch**’ (sandwiches, savouries and sweet slices etc. either hot or cold, there is an oven/microwave). Soup, Tea and Coffee provided but please BYO other drinks. After our luncheon there will be a short Annual Meeting followed by our Ceilidh, finishing by 5pm with an afternoon tea provided by the Committee. As usual, Mary Cooper has organized an entertaining array of artists and activities for our enjoyment. **So please make sure you come along to our SHARED Luncheon/AGM /Ceilidh arriving by 1pm to enjoy the fun and festivities with your Clansfolk.**

The ‘**Kirkin’ O’ the Tartan’ Service** organized by the Council of Clans will be held at The Scots’ Church, Melbourne on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 11am**. After the Service all Clans will meet in the Scots’ Church Hall in Russell Street for a BYO Lunch (tea & coffee provided). Free Parking is available in the Wilson Car Park, next door (even if “Car Park Full” sign is displayed), enter from Little Collins St. but have your ticket stamped in the Church Hall (Downstairs).

**Our last Gathering for 2003 will be in November** for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of our Association. - Our Chief Ruairidh will be in Australia for around 10 days and when he advises firm dates we will finalise an itinerary to put in our next newsletter. However, he has assured us that he will arrive in time for our Silver Jubilee on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November. **Please publicise our Chief’s visit** throughout your family, relatives and friends, encouraging them to attend, particularly the younger ones who will enjoy meeting Ruairidh. In our last newsletter we started a **Silver Jubilee Special Fundraising Effort** to help defray the cost of our Chief Ruairidh’s visit to Australia. **Please endeavour to sell all your tickets.** - Additional books of tickets available. Also, further donations/contributions toward the cost of this visit and the Silver Jubilee Celebrations are needed and any amount that is affordable would be very much appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you at our Family Luncheon and AGM/Ceilidh on 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Sincerely yours, Max McLennan, President and Chief’s Lieutenant.

## NEWS FROM OUR CHIEF.

**26 March, 2003.** Thank you for your very interesting e.mail. I am very glad that we appear to be getting closer to having a forward strategy for our presence on the Web and I thank you and the others involved for helping with this matter. The reason for this short message is to say that you are all about to receive a much longer e.mail from me, my report on our Clan meeting held on 15 March in Inverness. Much of the points from the report are relevant to the Web issue so I will make sure that I get this out later this week. In a nutshell, a successful meeting which went on for some time. It would be fair to say that Clan MacLennan Scotland is about to undergo a radical shakeup and change in direction. The Association will revolve around a renewed Web presence, e.mail forum’s and attendance at Highland Games in the Highlands, annual BBQ at our home in Dores and hopefully joint dinners/ceilidhs with other Clans. The committee/clan will now only meet for the purpose of social gatherings. The setting up and co-ordinating of the web site will be crucial to the new focus. I will get the report out ASAP, just spent 2 hours on it and regret having spoken so much at the meeting. Regards, Ruairidh.



Induction of new “Chief”



**7 April, 2003.** I have read the various copy correspondence regarding the web site/s and suspect that I am starting to confuse myself more and more! At our recent meeting in Scotland, I agreed to take the web issue forward and have Scotland/UK's presence back on the web in conjunction with the other Clan Associations. The important factor is which method will logistically work the best. Whatever your recommendations, Scotland has the money to either contribute to a shared site, or set up on our own but I think that I need guidance on this issue. The most important issue from my point-of-view is that all MacLennan sites link to one another. I would like to see the Californian group (young Dr. Jon) link into the wider MacLennan sites as well as New Zealand. I think that a linked network of MacLennan sites would unify the Clan like never before. I have confidence that we are heading in the right direction, I'm just needing guidance on how to get Scotland/UK organized to follow suit.

Look forward to your thoughts and thank you for all your efforts. Regards, Ruairidh.

**8 April, 2003.** Bruce, I fully support and agree with your recommendations for Scotland/UK to share the same "Home Page" from which each MacLennan group can link into. I am happy for you to go ahead and set up this site as you see fit. I will submit a message and anything else I can do to help, please let me know. Many thanks for all of your efforts, I feel that we are moving towards our goal at a fairly rapid pace. Regards, Ruairidh.

**9 April, 2003.** Hi Max, Things seem to be moving on well with regards to the Web Site. I think that this will provide a good opportunity for some of the Clan Associations to work closer together and hopefully cause a resurgence in interest in the Clan. Bruce and David are doing a great job and many thanks for the co-ordination that you are doing. - I am conscience that I need to give you clearer plans for November. I would imagine that I will come over to Melbourne at least 3 days earlier to allow for any problems whilst flying over standby. I cannot see me being able to be in Australia for more than 10 days. Regards, Ruairidh.

**2 May, 2003.** Many thanks for the birthday card and present. The blue fleece fits well and according to the sisters the colour suits me, thank you. - I have been following your correspondence regarding the web site and the demise of the NSW branch. The latter is very unfortunate and rather unexpected. Do you think that they will get it together and remain active? I will spend some time this weekend going through the correspondence and will contact them directly. I will also have another go at getting onto the new site and have a look and get back to Bruce and yourself with my thoughts. - Have had a very hectic two weeks due to piping competitions and frantic tune learning as well as birthday parties. Kirsteen hired a boat on Loch Ness and 100 of us boarded for a 3 hour cruise. The next day we had a lot of folk at the house for a BBQ which was good fun. ....Regards, Ruairidh.

## **NEWS OF CLANFOLK BOTH NEAR AND FAR.**

**From Roddy McLennan, Plymouth, UK. - 5 March, 2003.** I hope you are both keeping in good health. I am really enjoying life down here in Plymouth, Devon. It is so peaceful after the noise and fast pace of life in London.. - I am travelling up to Scotland this weekend to visit family and to further my research into my family history. During my trip I will be staying with Ruairidh for a few days. We are having an informal meeting to discuss what we can do about reviving the Clan Association in the UK. Please pass on my best wishes to everyone in the Melbourne branch. Kind regards, Roddy.

*(Editors Note: Roddy is a Past President of the Scottish Ass/n.)*

**From Jim and Sandra MacLennan, Mintlaw, Scotland-** thank you for your recent edition of your Newsletter, it makes wonderful reading. I really look forward to hearing about all your 'goings on' ...I see by the date, today is your Ringwood Highland Gathering, I hope you get the weather we have "a beautiful sunny day though a 'snell' wind." It is Mother's Day, Fiona couldn't get up to see us as she is on duty at an Internet Café - part of her duty for her varsity course but we had a mid-week visit so that made up for it. The clocks all went forward an hour due to the start of B.S.T. so both Sandra and I are out of kilter. Spring has arrived but for summer I have my doubts in spite of "Summer Time". I will have to give my roses their final prune and hope the frost is all past, "there is aye a something". Trouble is never far away with all this war going on and here is me worrying about a "wee bit o' frost". Thanks again for your chatty newsletter - it keeps us smiling. Yours aye, Jimmy Mac and Sandra.

*(A "Snell wind" is a biting cold one.)*

**From C. Lockhart McLendon, South Carolina, USA. - 22 April, 2003. -** Sorry it has taken so long to get back to you. It was not as easy as I thought trying to get this information.

The Bagpipe Band that came to the Stone Mountain Games when Ruairidh was there in 1996 was the Oregon State Defense Force Bagpipe Band. It took me a while to find the right person for the information.

There is another Band in Florida that wears the MacLennan Tartan. Winton MacLennan lived in Florida before moving to Tennessee and he knew of the Band but could not give any details except the name. The name then was: St. Andrews Pipe Band of St. Petersburg, Florida. I tried to find it on the Internet but could not. There is a possibility that the name has changed or they do not have a web-site. Hope this will help some.

Personal: I am still recovering from open heart surgery (4 By-Passes). At the same time they found that I had Prostate cancer. I have had 17 of 43 radiation treatments so far. I go five days a week. The last treatment is on the 27<sup>th</sup> May. I am doing fine so far. They think the Cancer was found at an early stage and the prognosis is good.

Hope everything is going well with you and the family. Always good to hear from you. Yours Aye, Lock.  
(*Editors Note: Lock is our Chief's Lieutenant for USA.*)

**From Doug & Elva MacLennan, Tsawwassen, B.C. Canada** - Greetings from Beautiful B.C. Thanks again for the newsletter, always interesting, I enjoy the humour....Our nephew had a friend visiting from Aus. (Chris. Tyson) we arranged a game of golf, Tyson, as he likes to be called, borrowed some clubs, had never played the course before, shot a 67, 2 over par - it's an executive course par 65, apparently he was an amateur champ. in Aus. Gave it up - too much pressure! - Nothing to report here Clan wise. ...Good to hear Chief is active, a personable young fellow. No doubt trying to bring things together in Scotland. (Our Canadian Branch formerly The Central Ontario Branch), still active, a newsletter should be out soon. We still go East each year for gathering at Fergus Games and family visits. ..I also get Newsletters from Clan MacLennan Assoc. (NSW & ACT).....I have difficulty with place names ? I have a small map of Aust. two letter size pages, only has larger size cities, municipalities, in NSW and VIC. I am not too agile with a computer and rely on Newsletters, am also a strong proponent of Newletters rather than a Comp. to get word out. We are both fine, enjoying grandees, how they grow, 5 now, 8 to 18. The 18 year old wants four wheels instead of two and an 11 year old won 2 gold and one silver at Canadian long course Speed skating Champs, others are into rugby, Scottish dancing, music, and all things to keep parents busy. Thanks again for Newsletter, Yours aye Doug & Elva.

(*Editors Note: Doug is a Past President of the Central Ontario Ass/n.*)

**From Sally-Jo & Bob Truhlar, Texas and Nebraska. - 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2003.** - This trip to Nebraska is to plant our garden and do a little trout fishing.with the grandkids. It could be a rough trip as the weather has really been on a rampage in North Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Tennessee, with deadly tornados and large hail every afternoon and night for the past week.A really bad one hit southern Oklahoma City and the suburb of Moore this afternoon, injuring at least one hundred. It's just over four years since the one that levelled the same area, killing scores. - We went back thru Moore and Oklahoma City just a few days after that one. We had a small one here exactly a week before the big one there. It pulled up a big hackberry tree in our back yard which Douglas finally cut up for me a couple weeks ago. No one around here had a saw big enough to saw up the trunk until Douglas brought his ancient Lumberjack saw over here. It will be 50 years ago Sunday, since the big Waco tornado that stayed on the ground 29 minutes and went right down Austin Avenue, which is the main street downtown. I had a sister, two uncles and an aunt working in the City Hall which sits in the middle of the Square at the foot of Austin Avenue. Jean's office was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor looking up Austin Ave. They saw it coming and got down under desks in an interior room and were unscathed except for glass in their hair. Her car however, had a piece of 2 x 4 lumber driven through it and the glass was like pulp. 114 people were killed and I don't know how many injured. It happened at 4.40pm and they said if it had happened at 5pm when everybody would have been out of the stores going home, the death toll would have been much larger. They have been running a series on it on the local news everyday for a couple of weeks. My surviving sister lives in northern Oklahoma City. They have had several small tornadoes go thru there but she has only lost a few trees.

We won't be going thru Oklahoma City this time, but will be taking a route to the west to take some pictures for a friend in England. They have had some bad storms out that way this week also, but mostly big hail. If you find yourself doing nothing some afternoon while you're resting up from working on the Newsletter, you can get me on Messenger in Lincoln at about the same time. - Take care and don't over do it. Love, Sally Jo and Bob.

**From Malcolm Lobban, formerly Scotland, now South Australia: - 30 March,2003.**

It has been a wee while since I got in touch, for which I apologise. However, better late than never! My main reason for writing now is to make you aware of our situation here in South Australia, It is just possible that you have already been briefed on our position via Brian and Jeanette Jasper, with whom I

have corresponded since coming to Australia. - I came to SA back in October, 2001, along with my wife May, son Alan and daughter Mairi. While here we applied for permanent residency. May and I as aged parents, bringing with us our son Alan, who is slightly intellectually impaired, due to fragile X syndrome (he is 40 years of age.) Daughter Mairi's application was a separate issue, claiming as the last remaining relative. May and I qualified physically and met with current regulations but son Alan was rejected on the grounds that he would become a financial burden on the Australian welfare and medical services. This was in spite of the fact that he held an ordinary labouring job for the past 27 years in Scotland and has accrued considerable superannuation credits and will be entitled to a UK state pension when he retires. These facts (backed by documentary proof) were never taken into account by the Immigration people. The verdict against Alan was taken by three doctors (employed by Immigration) none of whom ever saw Alan. However, the "rules" state that if one application fails, "all fail" - being an unusual facet of Aussie democracy! Mairi, of course could only succeed if we were allowed to enter.

We went through the usual appeal system (Migration Revue Tribunal), paid the usual fees and were politely told, via a TV interview with Canberra that they were obliged to uphold the doctors decision. They did tell us our only option now would be to go to court. But this would incur considerable legal fees. The other choice was to make a direct appeal to Immigration on "compelling compassionate" grounds and that is just what we have done.



Jeanette & Malcolm.

Several weeks ago Brian and Jeanette paid us a visit. When they heard our story they, to their credit, wasted no time in visiting our Migration Agent in Adelaide. While there they wrote a lovely joint letter of support, which has been submitted with our case file to the Minister. It was a terrific gesture and greatly appreciated by all members of our family, half of whom are now proud Australian Citizens (by choice). The Jasper's effort on our behalf is to be commended, for which we thanked them personally. However, it would please us if in the next Melbourne newsletter, you could see your way clear to perhaps acknowledging their kindness.

Apart from Brian & Jeanette's help we have a letter of support from a Federal MP who has written on our behalf and similarly we have a strong letter of support from one of Sth. Australia's leading authorities on genetics - who has "shot down" the decision of the Immigration Medics. Also, our Migration Agent has written an excellent report. - The support from Brian and Jeanette was a happy thought and she is a Lobban whose kindred hails from Banffshire, only walking distance from our own forebears! It is the first time in my life I have had such assistance from another Lobban. God bless her!

That's it for now, Max and Mary. I shall let you know what transpires. Currently we are all on three-monthly visas until we hear from the Minister. It can only be an 'Aye' or a 'Naw' in our case.

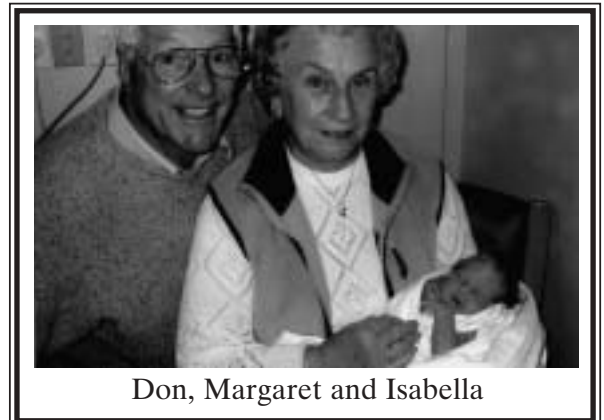
Cheerio the noo. Please pass on our good wishes to the clansfolk. All the best, Malcolm Lobban.

## There have been two more babies arrived since our last newsletter:

- **Izaak Carl Nicholls** was born on 13th March, 2003, son of Melanie and Stephen. Izaak weighed 9lb 8oz. and is the Grandson of Kath. and Ewen Nicholls. Great-Grandson for Marion Harvey. - *Congratulations to you all!!*

- And a very new baby girl, **Isabella Victoria Anne Harvey** was born at 8.27am on 8<sup>th</sup> May to Elizabeth and John at the Mercy Hospital. Isabella is the third child for the Harvey's; they have two sons - Zachary aged 4 and Lachlan 18 months. Isabella has been in special care as she had some fluid on the lungs and had several tubes in her. The proud Grandparents Margaret & Don MacLennan of Rosebud now have 17 Grandchildren.

*Good Luck to Elizabeth, John and baby Isabella. Well Done!!*



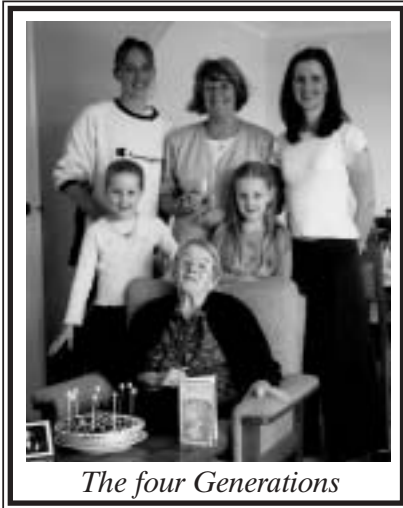
Don, Margaret and Isabella

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April, was the wedding day of Helen McLennan and Ian Hodgson** at St. Johns Anglican Church, Sorrento. It is a very old church and the wedding party with the Maids, Elsie - daughter of the bride and Emma daughter of the Groom and Best Man Joel, son of the Groom, made a lovely group as they walked down the aisle of this beautiful old church. The reception was held at The Royal Hotel in Mornington. Helen is the eldest daughter of Ann and Ian McLennan of Donald.

*Congratulations to Helen, Ian and the family!!*



After the Ceremony



The four Generations

### **A Wonderful Birthday Celebration.**

Marion McLennan was born in Warrnambool on March 10<sup>th</sup> 1913 and a Family Luncheon Party was held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2003 at the Ringwood North home of her daughter and son-in-law, Katherine and Ewen Nicholls, to celebrate **Marion's 90<sup>th</sup>**

**Birthday.** Marion had married **Whilton Harvey** and in this picture there are four female generation of the Harveys'. **Marion and Whilton have been staunch members of our Clan since the beginning and along with her sisters Nancy and Evelyn, there was never a gathering but they were there!! Happy Birthday Marion!!** Pictured are the four generations - Marion, her daughter Katherine Nicholls; Katherine's daughters Helen and Kirsten; and Helens daughters Tracy and Jenny.

**From Barbara Milojevic (Daughter of Bette McLennan & Les. Horsfall.)** - I enjoy the newsletter and hope to make the re-union at Creswick as I am a Great Granddaughter of William McLennan and Flora McInnes. If I cannot attend my "little sister" Penny Craig will be there I hope. I have travelled to the Highlands of Scotland - Ullapool, Gairloch, Inverurie and Isle of Skye and I am hoping to return for a "last fling" in September this year if all works out. On my trip in 1995 I met an Alisdair McClure and his mother (a descendant of Flora McInnes). That was a lovely experience. Alisdair took me out in his boat to visit the ruins of the original crofts on the shores of the settlement of Boreraig - sth.eastern shores of Skye. A very kind gesture at short notice. I have photos of the remains of cottages still standing - sheep still ramble about - however a very desolate place to inhabit - so vastly extreme compared to Australia in terms of climate and vegetation. It does make you appreciate what a huge adjustment our ancestors made and how well they all managed.

I enjoyed reading of Patsy and Bob's travels in Scotland. I feel very much at home in the Highlands (being a country person at heart). I have also visited the MacLennan museum at Kintail but Grace was out collecting sticks for the fire and as I needed to be back in Inverness that night I could not wait long - a pity. If I return this year I will try again - presuming someone still looks after the museum - do you know much about it?

I am most grateful to Ivan McLennan who helped me with research prior to my trip. Anyhow, now that I am retired I hope to partake of some clan activities where possible. Kind Regards, Barbara.

*(Editors Note: Unfortunately Grace Logan passed away and the Museum has since been closed and the artifacts moved away to safe storage.)*

**Get Well Wishes also to Janet Hunter,** we hope she is getting over her rather bad accident in her home and is up and about very soon. We know she is keen to get back into her garden. - *Best wishes Janet.*

**Our Get Well Wishes to Olga Taylor (nee Logan)** who has been housebound over recent months. She has really enjoyed reading the Newsletters but has been feeling very sad at not being able to join us at our Gatherings.

We sincerely hope your health will improve Olga as we miss you too! It's good to hear that Ted is feeling much better these days.



Olga Taylor



Allan Anderson

We are pleased to learn that **Allan Anderson of Woomelang** has been awarded a Centenary of Federation Medal in gratitude & recognition of his service to his community and the Bowling Club. Allan is the husband of Isabel (nee McLennan). *Congratulations to Allan - well deserved!*

**From John McLennan, Woolloomooloo, NSW.**- Thought I would send you a brief thank you note for all of the effort and trouble you undertook on my behalf. I am most appreciative for the "CAN YOU HELP" notice you placed in your March 2003 Edition of the Clan MacLennan Journal. You may remember that I had a nil response to a previous notice. However, the latter notice which mentioned a forebear by the name of James Parland Colquhoun McLennan brought forth a response which you may have heard about already. This ancestor just happened to be the grandfather of your committee member Bruce McLennan. I have been in touch with Bruce and it certainly was good to make

contact with a "relative" in Victoria after a wait of almost 100 years. So, you can see that the note in the journal proved to be most worthwhile. I would once again like to take the opportunity to thank you both for your consideration on my behalf. Warmest good wishes, John. - *(We were glad to be of service, John!)*

**Elspeth Horn 18yrs** of Mt. Macedon the eldest child of Anne McLennan and Mac Horn, stepdaughter of Frank Donovan and first grandchild of Max & Mary, paid a whirlwind visit to her mentor, Jenny Grounds at Riddles Creek Country Practice after learning the good news that Elspeth had received a \$100,000 Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship at Monash University courtesy of the Federal Government. "Forever" is how long Elspeth has planned to study medicine. "I even wrote it down in my Grade 3 biography textbook," the talented student said. In addition to applying herself rigorously to VCE studies at Gisborne Secondary College to obtain an impressive 97.5 ENTER score, Elspeth approached the Central Highlands Division of General Practice to seek further assistance. She was teamed with Riddles Creek G.P., Jenny Grounds who took on an informal role as mentor in the past years. In addition to obtaining her first choice of placement at Monash University the scholarship was a welcome surprise. The Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship provides 100 scholarships Australia-wide worth \$20,000 a year to new medical students prepared to commit to at least six years of rural practice, once they have finish basic medical and postgraduate training. Forward planning and commitment appear to have paid off for Elspeth, who said "I'm pretty excited." Congratulations to Elspeth!! (and of course her Grandparents are pretty proud.) *(Midland Express' 4 March, 2003.)*



Elspeth with Jenny outside the Practice.

## **NEW CLAN WEB SITE; By Bruce McLennan.**

Early in May, a new Clan Web site was launched.

The MacLennan's spread out to many parts of the globe. For the first time all the significant countries are on the Internet under one umbrella at [www.clan.maclennan.com](http://www.clan.maclennan.com). Contacts and Clan information can be found there for Scotland, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and USA.

Our Chief Ruairidh set the scene in his report to Clansfolk at a meeting in Dores, Scotland on 15<sup>th</sup> March this year: "In recent years, the importance of the Internet has staggered me.

- Whilst on a visit to the Pipes & Drums of Zurich in Switzerland (who wear MacLennan tartan), I was amazed at how much each of the pipeband members knew about the Clan due to our website. I was too embarrassed to mention to them that the site had come off the Internet just day previous to my visit, and

- On a recent visit as guest speaker at the Caledonian Society of Sheffield's St. Andrew's Ball, the President thanked me for mentioning my visit to Sheffield on our Clan website. I believe, without doubt that a successful and up-to-date web site which has links to all Clan MacLennan sites, is the sole most important tool for bringing the Association's to MacLennans' throughout the world."

### **Links:**

Our new site has links to thousand of places that can help users to understand more about our Clan, Scottish heritage and to help carry out family tree research.

**Message Board:**

One of the guidelines from our Chief was that “Amongst other things, the site should have a message board section which allows people to make enquiries that can be answered by various Clansfolk.”

There is now a very easy-to-use Message Board - using Yahoo. Associations all around the world will be advising members that this Message Board is now up and running. - The Message Board can be easily found by clicking on the “Discussion Group” link on each main page of the site.

A simple registration process will allow you to access and load information. And once you are a member you will be able to load your own photographs of Clan-related events! Photos can be scanned before loading. We hope that you will start to load your photos to the Message Board.

**Events Calendar:**

Our Chief’s vision was that “The site should have details of recent and forthcoming Clan activities.”

The site has a very easy-to-use Calendar where any Member of the Message Board can publish dates and details about upcoming events.

*We urge all members to load information about events to the Events Calendar on our Web site.*

**WHY COME YE BACK TO SCOTLAND? by Leonie Michailidis.**

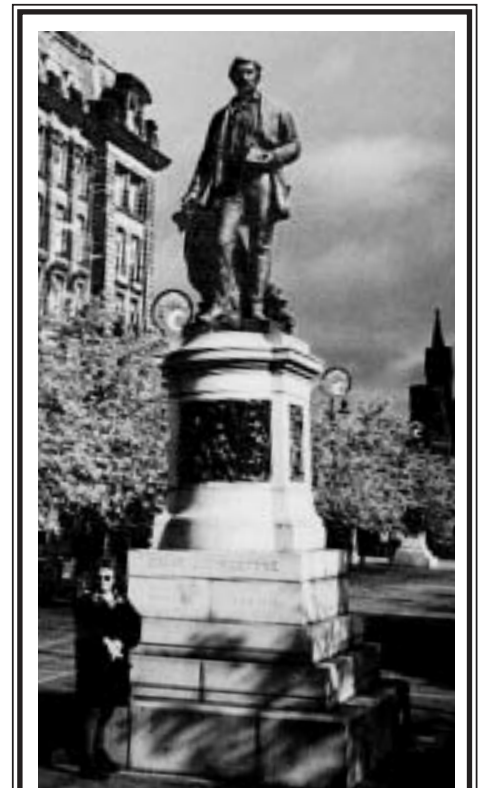
Suddenly the desire to go to Scotland came upon me. - Maybe the celebrating of Tartan Day has stirred up hidden emotions or maybe it was the realisation next year would be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Clan MacLennan in Melbourne. My mother, Elsie Smith (nee Logan) after visiting the land of her ancestors was inspired to form a Clan branch in Melbourne. She came in contact with Olive MacLennan and these two ladies became the inaugural President and Secretary respectively after a meeting of Clan people was organized.

Whatever it was, I felt I must go soon or the opportunity would not avail itself again for many months. I managed to purchase the last seat on Malaysian Airlines and booked on the last tour into Scotland for 2002. - So there I was, winging my way to London, by myself, emulating my mother in my desire to see the land of my forebears; not realising I was about to encounter many sights and impressions that had helped formulate my views and character. - The gardens, window boxes and hanging baskets of Edinburgh, St. Andrews, Oban and other cities and villages burst with the colours of red Geraniums, blue Lobelias, vibrant Begonias and pastel Petunias, all flowers of my childhood.

A “good Scottish Breakfast” consisting of bacon and eggs, sausage, tomato and fried oatcakes or bread; perhaps porridge with prunes and grapefruit to be followed by toast with marmalade or blackberry jam washed down by tea or coffee. I heard it said that Scottish bacon was the best in the British Isles! - As a child I endured plum jams for eleven months of the year. Mother was lucky to have a cherry plum tree in the garden. Bountiful was its crop; prolific was my mother’s jam making skills. The few pots of blackberry jam made from wild blackberries were a welcome relief!

As a child a trip to the city of Melbourne by train, a walk up Swanston Street, past wonderful buildings and monuments built from the riches of the Gold Rush, to the State Library, Art Gallery and Museum was forever calling my sister and myself. We were only 10 years old when we embarked on these outings. My imagination has been fired since I first read. Robert Falconer Scott; Dr. David Livingstone M.D.; and Robert Louis Stevenson - these were the names of my childhood heroes. Whether I was fighting wars on my counterpane or fighting my way against nature and tremendous odds to break into a clearing at the base of the Victoria Falls where I would utter the words “Dr. Livingstone I presume” - I was adventuring. What joy it was to spy Captain Scott’s ship the ‘Discovery’ in the dry docks of Dundee as we sped by coach over the Tay River. I remembered the dying Scott and the letters he wrote to his family and friends. They illustrated his great courage, integrity and eloquence. To stand at the feet of Dr. David Livingstone, M.D. where he abides between the old Infirmary and Glasgow Cathedral, immortalized in bronze, and to have my photo taken was almost as thrilling as the encounter in the depth of darkest Africa I had imagined many years ago.

For her birthday, I gave my granddaughter a beautifully illustrated book of poems by Robert Louis Stevenson. Together we (myself, Kiara and Robert Louis) fly up on a swing to see over the wall and we



Leonie & Dr. David Livingstone

float leaves on the water out to sea. Kiara and I are with Robert as he lies on a sick bed with two pillows for his head, or watches the stars through the window at night.

I had run down the Royal Mile in Edinburgh from the Castle to Holyrood Palace, visited the grave of Greyfriars Bobby and his master, John Gray and was taking a short cut somewhere when I came across the Writer's Museum. Set in concrete, were quotes from many Scottish writers. On the ground at my feet was a quote from Robert Louis Stevenson - "No lights shine as bright as the Gaslights of Edinburgh." It was then I began to realise how much of my self was influenced by my heritage.

My grandfather, dressed in tartan shorts had run in the mile race at Stawell in 1902 or 1903. Two of his sons, Harry and John (Jock) Logan had been professional runners of some note. When I stood in Glencoe and heard the story of how the MacDonalds had been slain in their sleep by the Campbell's and English troops I had a vision of my ancestors running up Bens and Munro's (mountains) through and over the Highlands to Inverness as the few of the fleeing MacDonalds not lost in the snow may have done.

In both Edinburgh and Glasgow I was blown away by the architecture I saw. The Royal Museum in Edinburgh left me breathless. Much of Glasgow reminded me of the colonial buildings of Melbourne and I was awe inspired by the work of Charles Rennie Macintosh.

I love Mountains, Museums, Monuments, Architecture, Poetry, Bagpipes, acts of great courage, loyalty and integrity, all of which I found in abundance in Scotland.

That is why I went back to Scotland; I rediscovered my childhood, my visions and my dreams.

## **SCOTS O' THE MURRAY WEEKEND.**

Once again a contingent of MacLennans headed off for Rutherglen on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May to the Scots O' The Murray Dinner and then the Sunday MacLennan Clan Gathering at the home of Jeanette (nee Lobban) and Brian Jasper.

The dinner organised by Alister Chisholm, was a great success even though the venue had to be changed at the last minute because of a double booking - it was a little crowded but added to the fun - although the Haggis Procession and the Address to the Haggis was slightly squashed. It was lovely to see all the men in their kilts of various Clans and their black jackets and the ladies in their lovely frocks and tartan sashes. Once again an Australian "Bush Band" provided the background music and we were entertained by the Albury Wodonga Pipes and Drums; A team of graceful girls performed several Scottish Reels and Strathspeys and finished with the Sword Dance. At the end of

the meal and the piping and the dancing it was our turn to dance. This was considerably more expert than last year and those watching were very appreciative of their efforts. As next year is the tenth anniversary of "Scots O' the Murray" it would be great if more of our Clan would join us and enjoy the hospitality of Alister and his lovely wife Heather. Alister and Heather have a lovely B & B but booking for accommodation has to be done early - not only with Alister but in the whole of Rutherglen.

*(If you wish to be added to their invitation list ring 02-6032 8328.)*

The next day the weather turned out to be another beautiful Rutherglen sunny day and at noon we all met at the home of Jeanette and Brian where, with their old friend Bruce MacIntosh, we were all warmly welcomed. Several members of the Clan who live in northern-eastern Vic. and across the Murray in NSW joined us for an afternoon with lots of food and lots of fellowship. A vote of thanks was proposed by Max to Jeanette and Brian for giving us such a warm welcome into their home and this was carried with acclamation from all present. - We were entertained

throughout the afternoon by piper Felicity Splieth from Albury Wodonga Pipes and Drums and it certainly helped give us that Scottish touch. Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end and around 4pm it was time to set off for our homes with the hope that we will all be back next year for a wonderful weekend together.



'Kilts Galore' - Corowa Free Press, 7 May, 2003.



Don & Gweneth



Alison & Stuart Sharpe with Bruce McIntosh

## THE WATER OF LIFE.

**UISGE BEATHA** - Gaelic for “water of life” - gave us the word whisky. Its production was a means for crofters and farmers in the Highlands to use their surplus grain . Centuries later, the distilling of whisky has become a major industry with a product known and enjoyed throughout the world.

Bad harvests led to a three year ban on distilling in 1757. Similar famines and prohibitions recurred throughout the rest of the century. This created an illicit industry which grew with attempts to regulate the size of stills and increase the tax, It diminished with the encouragement of legal distillation from 1823. Changes in the law in the 19<sup>th</sup> century led to the art of blending - the balancing of malt and grain whiskies. However, in recent years there has been a revival in the popularity of single malt whisky - the product of individual named distilleries.

Minor variations in the water used, the type of malted barley, even the shape of the copper pot stills can affect the distinctive taste of each malt whisky. Generations of skill, combined with the craft of the present-day distiller, ensure that the distilleries you visit continue to produce malt whisky of the finest quality.

Thomas MacKenzie proprietor of the Ord Estate was a rarity for his time - an exemplary improving landlord. Unlike many of his contemporaries, he did not “clear” his land of tenants; instead, he created opportunities for employment and the use of local barley by leasing the distillery land almost rent-free to the first licence holders, Robert Johnstone and Donald McLennan. MacKenzie’s home, Ord House, overlooks the distillery.

### STATE STAR BACK IN NATIONAL FOLD. (Moonee Valley Leader, May 5, 2003.)

Essendon Hockey Club’s Alistair McLennan represented Victoria in its first Australian Hockey League game of 2003. Alistair has played for the Vikings for the past two years and played every game for Victoria in last years AHL season. McLennan, who has played at Essendon since he was a junior, has been in numerous junior state teams in the past. He also travelled to Malaysia with an Australian Junior team in 2001 but just missed out on selection for the Junior World Cup. - Essendon’s top mens’ team made up for its shocking opening game of the State League hockey season last weekend with a 6-3 win over Kew on Saturday. Alistair McLennan was a standout player, scoring twice.

**BARBARA CRICK OF HORSHAM** is wondering if anyone can throw some light on Murdoch McLennan (1715) who wrote the following found in The Oxford Book of Quotations -

*There’s some say that we wan , And some say that they wan,  
And some say that nane wan at a’ man; But a’e thing I’m sure that at  
Sherrifmuir, A battle there was that I saw, man;  
And we ran, and they ran, and they ran and we ran,  
And we ran, and they ran awa’, man!*

In Hoggs Jacobite Relics (1821) the last line is :

**“But Florence ran fastest of a’, man’.”** - Florence was the Marquis of Huntly’s horse.

(Editors note: Barbara I think we are able to throw some light on you query - On Page 75 of Chief Ronald’s book you will find the answer - “A very humorous song on this battle was composed by **Rev. Murdoch MacLennan** minister of **Crathie, in Braemar**. It consists of *Twenty-one verses*, in a peculiar measure and describes the operations very graphically, at the same time giving the names of all the chiefs and principal parties engaged on either side, with allusion to their conduct during the fight. **The Rev. Murdoch, born 1701** son of David MacLennan of Drummond, Kiltearn, Ross-shire **died on 22 July, 1783 at Crathes, in his 82<sup>nd</sup> year**, and is buried in the N.W. corner of the graveyard. By coincidence another Rev. Murdoch MacLennan was minister at Crathes in 1636. He was a member of the Chiefly family, appointed a J.P on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 1636 and was also minister at Gairloch.” - The date 1715 was the date of the Battle of Sherrifmuir - 13 Nov. 1715. *The only reference found to horses is in pages 77 v.6, 78 v16.*)

**SCOTS ORIGINS:** the on-line service from New Register House which closed down after some years of outstanding Internet success was replaced by *Scotland’s People* at: <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

For a fee paid by credit card on-line, births, marriages and deaths, and census records for 1901, 1891, and 1881 can be viewed and then printed with your own PC.



Alistair McLennan (left)  
keeps eye on ball.

☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺ **FRAE' ABERDEEN, YE KEN?** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺

Mrs. Forbes the Henwife called on Mr. Gordon the Grocer on the weekly market day. "Fit's the price of eggs th' day, Maister Gordon?" "Saxpence the dizzen." "Saxpence the dizzen! That's an awfu' wee price for eggs, Maister Gordon." "Weel, Mrs. Forbes, the Grocer's o' Aiberdeen had a meetin' and they agreed to pey nae mair than saxpence a dizzen for eggs."

So Mrs. Forbes handed over the dozen eggs and pocketed the sixpence. Next week she called as usual. "Fit's the price for eggs th' day, Maister Gordon?" "Saxpence the dizzen." "That's an awfu' wee price for eggs Maister Gordon, but here's a dizzen." "These are awfu' wee eggs th' day, Mrs. Forbes!" "Ah, weel" she retorted, "A' the hens in our district had a meetin' an they a' agreed that they wadna rax themselves for only saxpence the dizzen." (*Rax - to stretch one's body or part of body.*)

### **'BLACK ROOTS - WHITE FLOWERS' A History of Jazz in Australia by Andrew Bissett.**

(*The following is an extract from the above book - provided by Geoff. McLennan.*)

"...Three enterprising young Australians, Ross, Barker and McLennan toured the Keith circuit in USA and the world 1925 - 34 with a jazz act, the "Three Australian Boys". They recorded in England in the late twenties. Hec. McLennan was taught Banjo by Bob Kruze of the Californians. McLennan's son Rod enjoyed success as a pop singer in the 1960's. More Australian jazzmen would have gone to the United States had not the immigration laws made it difficult."

### **SCOTTISH AND PROUD OF IT.** (Andrew Fraser, Clan Fraser Society of Victoria)

**CLANSMEN, fellow Scots** and those to whom it may concern, be proud to show off your tartan on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July**. On that day in 1782 an Act of Parliament gave you the honor of wearing your national dress at all times on every occasion. - No other race of people can claim such an honor. The proclamation, as translated from the Gaelic, reads:

"Listen Mon, this is bringing before all the Sons of the Gael that the King and Parliament of Britain have forever abolished the Act against the Highland Dress that came down to the clans from the beginning of the world to the year 1746."

"This must bring great joy to every Highland heart. You are no longer bound down to the unmanly dress of the lowlander. This is declaring to every man, young and old, Commons and Gentles, that they may after this put on and wear the trews, the little kilt, the doublet and hose, along with the tartan kilt, without fear of the law of the land or the jealousy of enemies."

## **McLENNAN/McINNES RE-UNION AT CRESWICK, VIC.**

The 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2003 has been set for another re-union of the descendant families of the three McLennan brothers William, Angus, John and their sister Margaret, who arrived in Australia in the 1860's. Initially the brothers went to the Creswick area at Neil & Barbara (nee McAllister) McInnes' property, subsequently marrying three of their daughters and they then settled in the Marnoo Area in the 1870's.

In 1864 William McLennan md. Flora McInnes at Bruce's Creek, Vic.; in 1868 Angus md. Mary McInnes at Spring Hill, Vic.; in 1878 John McLennan md. Annie McInnes at Stawell, Vic. In 1847 Margaret McLennan md. Kenneth McDonald in Scotland. The McLennans were all born in Ross-Shire, Scotland and the McInnes' were all born in Skye. **It is planned to hold this re-union at the Creswick, R.S.L. Hall in Albert Street, Creswick (near the CFA and the Shire Hall) on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2003** from 10am for a BYO Lunch at 12 noon, and an afternoon of family re-union and genealogy.

Please spread the word among your families and other's on your tree to make this a well attended and enjoyable day. For more information contact : Doug. McLennan, Kangaroo Flat, Bendigo. PH 5447 7657 (*Please note the change of venue for the gathering in Creswick!!*)

☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺ **LET'S LAUGH** ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺

A famous surgeon was at his local garage when one of the mechanics said hello and called him over to a vehicle. The mechanic said "Look at this, I also open hearts, take out valves, grind them put in new parts and when I have finished this will work like a new one. How come you get the really big money when basically we are doing the same work?"

The doctor learned over and said: "Try doing it with the engine still running".

The herring for many years swam along with a friendly whale. It appeared one day without its companion. Asked where the whale was, the herring replied: "How should I know? Am I my blubber's kipper?"

## EARLY HISTORY OF OUR CHIEF'S FAMILY!

(Extracts from an article written by Mairi A. MacDonald, printed in *The Scots Magazine*, February, 1966.)

As I watched The Silver Thistle Dancers, I was somehow whisked back into the long ago. Stage, audience and orchestra disappeared leaving only dancers who in their neat steps and elegant postures, the lively swings recaptured that vital spirit which is so essential an ingredient of real old Highland dancing. Who had trained them? I looked up with a start as a kilted man addressed me, "I was wondering how they come to be so good. Who trained them?" I asked. "I did. I'm Ronnie MacLennan." "Any relation to the dancing and piping MacLennan's of old?"

"I'm one of them. Are you interested in family trees?" "Very. Have you one?" "Yes and I'll show it to you some day." That was my introduction to Ronnie MacLennan. Some time later Ronnie visited me in Inverness, bringing his tree and family album along with him.



Ronnie MacLennan (holding thistle) with dance team, the Harthill Silver Thistle Dancers)

I found it was possible to trace this MacLennan family back to the beginning of the eighteenth century, to one, Murdoch, a piper - born about 1700, who later fought at Culloden. To my amazement there was a link between this man and two other MacLennan pipers - one Murdoch (1504 - 1574) and another Murdoch (1547 - 1627) who had held positions as town Pipers in Inverness - the latter being killed in a raid by retainers of the Earl of Moray. The two would in all probability, have played the earlier two-droned bagpipe and passed their musical knowledge on to their kinsmen, who developed the art. It was believed in the district that the family originally came from Strathconon. Descendants still have a snuff-box and a well-used bone *cuachan* (small drinking cup) inscribed, "Alex MacLennan, Strathconon, 1784". Murdoch lived at Mellon Charles - "Charles's little hill" - Ross-shire and married Janet MacKenzie, Tighnafiline - "House of the Shorefield" - Aultbea. These two had for family - Duncan who married Margaret MacLennan; Alexander, Black John and several others. Of these, Duncan was the most adventuresome. Taught to play the pipes by Angus MacKay, he joined the renowned "Freiceadan Dubh" - Black Watch. In 1779 he piped at the head of fifty recruits who were marching from Stirling to Leith for embarkation - but who, when told that they were to be drafted to a non-Highland regiment, mutinied. In the fracas which followed, he was wounded in the leg. Later, however, he distinguished himself as one of the pipers whose skirl persisted at Waterloo wherever fire was hottest. Duncan and Margaret had a largish family - Duncan, who married Catherine MacLennan, a midwife, two of whose brothers, Francis and Tom, were singers. Francis emigrated in the 1860 evictions and his son Francis, born in Michigan, sang in the Covent Garden Opera Company, London between 1889 and 1893. Thomas MacLennan of Neil and MacLennan's well-known music shop, which flourished in Inverness in the '20's was connected with this branch of the family. Another brother of Catherine's was Farquhar, the Ross-shire Wanderer.

Their second son, John, married Lady Elizabeth MacKenzie of Gruinard. He was her senior by twenty-five years and after his death at Mellon Charles in 1862 she emigrated to Australia, about 1870, to join her family who had gone out earlier. Their third son, Big Donald of Moy, also a piper, had three sons, Donald, Alex. and John. Of these Alex. was pipe-major of the Inverness Militia and John became piper to the Earl of Fife. Murdoch, Duncan's fourth son, was a piper, as was Kenneth, the youngest, who was the father of Murdoch, the famous Munloch pipe, born in 1826 and winner of the Northern Meeting in Inverness in 1862. The bagpipes used on this occasion, given to him by John Ban MacKenzie, are held by a family descendant to this day. Exceptionally tall, he lived to be 88 years of age. - Murdoch was a well-known figure in Artafallie, near Munloch where he lived for a while and later at Gairnside, near Lentrane and Bogallan where he died. His lame brother, Alex. of Tore, was also a well known piper.

Duncan, a tailor-crofter, born at Aultbea, “the gentle slope” did not emigrate, though a Waterloo medal, 1815, found amongst his possessions would suggest that he too, had fought in this memorable battle. He and Catherine, in their turn, reared a large family, eight sons, all pipers and dancers and one daughter Anne, a poetess whose poems “Sacred and Secular” were published in Edinburgh in 1884. Anne was educated in Killearnan and when old enough went to Perth, and was for some time a domestic servant in a manse there. She then accepted the appointment of Bible Woman in Lochgilphead where in her later years she wrote her poems. Anne died in 1883.

Duncan’s two eldest boys, Murdoch and Alec., were the last to perform the “Dirk Dance”, in London in 1850 and by then were the only individuals who could dance it. This “Dirk Dance”, which must not be confused with today’s “Sword Dance”, was the original “Dannsadh na Bìodaig” a kind of pyrrhic dance which depicted thrust and attack on the part of the dancer, who eventually worked himself up into a battle frenzy. Duncan’s youngest son, John, born at Mulbuie, Kilcoy in 1843 became a lieutenant in the Edinburgh Police and during his lifetime was one of the foremost authorities on pipe music and an expert teacher of the bagpipe. As lieutenant in the chargerroom, he gradually won for himself a reputation for his knowledge of criminal law, after gaining a high place in this subject in the university. When he retired in 1906 from Police service he devoted all his energies to his piping, publishing in 1907 *The Piobaireachd As MacCrimmon Played It.* - In 1914 although 71 years of age, he volunteered to help his country and was appointed to a recruiting post at Falkirk, which he held until 1916 For his services he received the army rank of Hon. Lieutenant. Peace found him once again engrossed in his hobby, and a further publication, *Collection of Pibrochs, Marches and Two Reels*, soon appeared. He died in Edinburgh in 1923. John had several children, the most outstanding of whom was George S. MacLennan of the Gordon Highlanders. George inherited a wealth of traditional piping knowledge and early showed his genius by winning both the Amateur Championship of Scotland and the Open Championship of London twice before he was 11 years old..It was a thrilling moment when Queen Victoria, a great lover of Bagpipe music, expressed an ardent wish to hear the “marvelous boy who could express on his tuneful pipes songs that men who had laboured to do could not do better”. The mighty MacCrimmon had been an old man when he stood before King Charles II in 1651 as the King of Pipers. Two centuries later his place was taken by a boy of 11 who played by request before his Queen. In 1899 George, aged 15, joined the Gordon Highlanders and three years later was promoted to the rank of Pipe-major. He continued to compete at all piping competitions in Inverness, Oban, Crieff, Fort William, Bridge of Allan, Braemar and Portree and when he died in 1929 at the early age of 45 he left behind 2800 cups, medals and prizes having been won during these years. But not only was George an outstanding piper, he was a composer also, two of his favourite compositions, *Bogallan* and *Gairnside*, being dedicated to his ancestor Murdoch, the Munloch piper. Another composition was in memory of Major John MacLennan. His jacket and medals are housed in the Military Museum, Edinburgh Castle. George’s brother, Pipe-major D.R. MacLennan of the Seaforth Highlanders, also holds a leading position in the piping world. In 1920 he won an open competition at the Northern Meeting at Inverness, but by the end of the second war he felt that his competition days were over. His friends however persuaded him to return to the piping arena and at Lochearnhead Games in 1955 he won the open piobaireachd competition and the bronze star of the Royal Scottish Pipers’ Society. Thereafter he went from strength to strength, climaxing by winning the gold medal for piobaireachd at Oban and the similar trophy at the Northern Meeting, Inverness within a week of each other in 1956. Lieut. John MacLennan also taught his nephew William, whom he took into his own family on the death of the boy’s father. Another uncle, Murdo MacLennan taught the young nephew dancing. After leaving school, Willie became a newspaper reporter before turning to architecture, of which he became a fully qualified practitioner. During these pursuits he continued with his piping and dancing and also studied ballet in Paris. Returning to Scotland he made radical changes in the style of Highland dancing, which were acclaimed great improvements and quickly adopted by the leading dancers of that day. Forming his own concert party, which included a well known violinist, he made three tours of the United States and Canada, teaching dancing in Montreal during several winters, where he also conducted art classes in painting and drawing. An impressive setting of his for Reels was the deck of a ship, the dancers dipping torches in a paraffin drum and carrying these as they danced, the bright flames silhouetted against sky and water. He won all the piping and dancing honours of his day, including the Highland Society of London Medal at the Argyllshire Gathering in 1875 and also at Inverness in 1879. An amusing story is told of him when competing at the Balmoral Gathering in 1887. He had won all the firsts in open dancing and knowing himself to be the best piper present, was surprised

to find himself placed second. He immediately asked the judges what mistake he had made. *"Oh, nae mistake. You played capital."* *"Surely then, I was entitled to the first prize?"* *"Maybe ye wis - but ye see, ye had a' the first for dancing."* *"But was I not the best dancer?"* *"Nae doot about that."* *"And was I not the best piper too?"* *"We're no' sayin' but ye wis."* *"But I thought the best piper ought to get the first prize."* *"Oh, nae doot, but we thought ye had gotten plenty already."* *"I wonder what they would have done if the competitor was a hammer-thrower or a jumper."* Willie mused. *"They could not say 30ft was less than 25ft - or perhaps they could"*. When Willie died in Montreal in October, 1892 at the early age of thirty-two, the newspapers carried the caption: *"King of Dancers Dead."*

Willie's brother, Donald G. MacLennan, Professor of Dancing born at Minard Castle in 1869 where his father was estate manager, became a member of the Examining Committee of the Association of Operatic Dancing of Great Britain and one of the examiners of the Royal Academy, London.

Another brother, Duncan also born at Minard Castle, danced before Royalty. Yet another brother John, Major in the Gordon Highlanders, who was killed in 1916, was the father of Captain Hamish MacLennan who was first manager of Edinburgh Festival.

Every self-respecting family tree must have a black sheep hidden somewhere amongst its branches - and we find a very interesting member of this species in the MacLennan one, referred to as *"Fearchair-a-Ghunna," "Farquhar of the Gun."* - the Ross-shire Wanderer. Farquhar, born in 1784 in Strathconon, of a family of smugglers, was the uncle of Lieutenant John MacLennan. His father was a well-to-do crofter, but Farquhar early in life proved himself to be, to say the least, rather difficult. In appearance he was smallish, but sturdily built with square shoulders and a remarkably erect gait. His



Farquhar of the Gun

head was covered with a profusion of long bristly hair - seldom if ever combed - his eyes small, restless and piercing, while a fixed determination was stamped on his careworn countenance. As a youth he had been engaged as a herd with a man named Gray, at Croftruny. One warm summer day found him fast asleep - his cattle having strayed into a nearby cornfield. His master - furious with his herd, hit him a blow on the side of his head with a spade, which broke his collar-bone and severely gashed his face. At this time, the Excise officers were very specifically engaged in routing out the Strathconon smugglers and had procured a cottage in the district from which to operate. One morning the cottage was found burnt to the ground, and everyone knew that Farquhar had had some hand in this. After losing a favourite brother in an accident with the gaugers, and seeing his old father apprehended for smuggling, one fine day in 1809 Farquhar left home and began his nomadic existence. His favourite haunt was the Black Isle, where festooned by heavy chains, bits of rags, feathers and wisps of paper, he soon became a well-kent figure (known). A large sack of his own peculiar treasures was carried on his back, whilst a brace of castaway pistols hung from his iron belt, which also anchored a Mexican powder-



(L-R, Duncan (b.1781), son George, G/son Donald G. (b.1869), & G/son Alex)

horn, several iron hoops, pieces of chain, a sword and a bunch of keys. His most treasured possession, however, was his gun, which was of most wonderful and unusual construction. It was made up of about half a dozen old gun barrels, tied together with a chain, and embedded in a stock which he himself had carved out of the thick end of a tree. This monster weapon was too heavy to use at the shoulder, so he made a rest for it and carried also a pan with a burning peat within to ignite the powder. Before action he first got the gun adjusted on a rest to the requisite level, then he laid a trail of powder to each of the barrels, and lastly applied the peat. The six barrels went off simultaneously with a terrific report but nothing aimed at was ever hit!! - Farquhar died in Inverness Infirmary in 1868 and was buried in Tomnahurich Cemetery.

To come back to Ronnie, with whom I began this article. He is a great-grandson of Roderick, a grandson of the first Duncan. Roderick was tall, red haired and nicknamed "The Minister" on account of his wisdom. Both he and his father were precentors as well as pipers and dancers. Roderick's eldest son Alex., Ronnie's grandfather was a judge of piping and dancing. The other members of this family were all musical, two daughters becoming music teachers. - How this 'tree' has grown and spread over the centuries! Peeping out here and there were names such as Pipe-Major Lewis MacLennan, founder of the City of Melbourne Highland Pipe Band, Australia, and Duncan MacLennan, a famous Highland dancer who danced before Royalty and died in Wellington, N.Z. - "There's certainly no doubt it's in your blood," I said as I handed the book back to Ronnie, "Where do you go from here?" "To my home in Shieldaig to learn about some of our long lost dances."



**LET'S SMILE**



It was Easter Sunday and little Johnny decided to play a prank on his family. He snuck into the fowlhouse and replaced every single egg with a brightly-coloured one.

Just as he left the rooster walked in, saw the eggs and spluttered. "I'm going to kill that blooming peacock!!".

A four year old was in church when the wafers and wine were given out. His mother told him he was too young to take part in Communion. - The service progressed and the collection plate came around. - As his mother tried to ease the money out of his clenched fist the youngster angrily shouted: "If I can't eat, I won't pay."

Two 60 year-olds were dining out to celebrate 40 years of marriage. As they pondered on their lives, a genie suddenly appeared and said their wishes could come true. The wife had the first wish and asked for a world cruise. Immediately she had two tickets in her hand for the best liner in the world.

The man was then asked and he said he would like a woman 30 years younger than he was. The genie acted immediately and made the husband 90 years of age.

An elderly man was invited home for dinner with a friend. The guest was impressed by the way his host preceded each remark with an endearing term every time he addressed his wife of 60 years .

It was "my love", "darling", or "dearest" all night. - When the hostess left the room for a time, the guest said: "I think it's just wonderful that after all these years you still call your wife such loving names." -

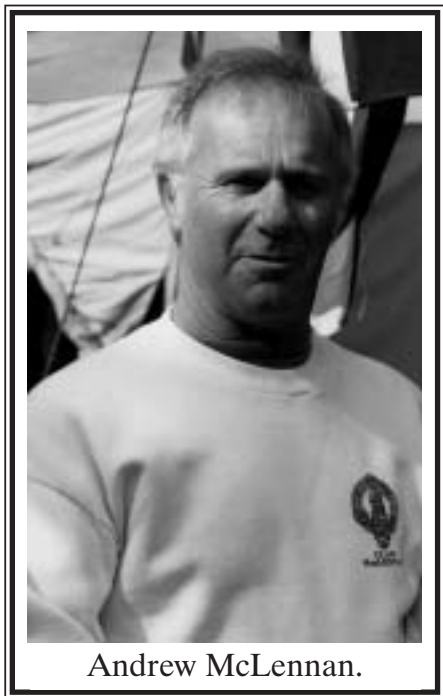
The host hung his head and then muttered: "The truth is, I forgot her real name about 10 years ago."

While waiting for an appointment in the reception room of a new dentist, the patient saw the dentist's certificate, which bore his full name. Suddenly, he remembered that a tall, handsome boy with the same name had been in his high school class some 40 years ago. Upon seeing him, however, the patient quickly discarded any such thought. The balding, grey-haired man with the deeply-lined face was too old to have been his classmate. - After the dentist had examined the man's teeth, the patient asked him if he had attended the local high school. 'Yes,' he replied. 'I graduated in 1958.' 'Why,' exclaimed the patient. 'You were in my class!' The dentist looked at the patient closely and then asked: 'What did you teach?'

## **NEW MEMBERS.**

We are pleased to welcome into our Clan Association; Linda Kazlauskas, Lilydale, Vic. and look forward to meeting Linda and her family at some of our future gatherings.

**CLANSFOLK SEEN AT RINGWOOD GATHERING - 30 MARCH, 2003.**



Andrew McLennan.



Leila Gaston.



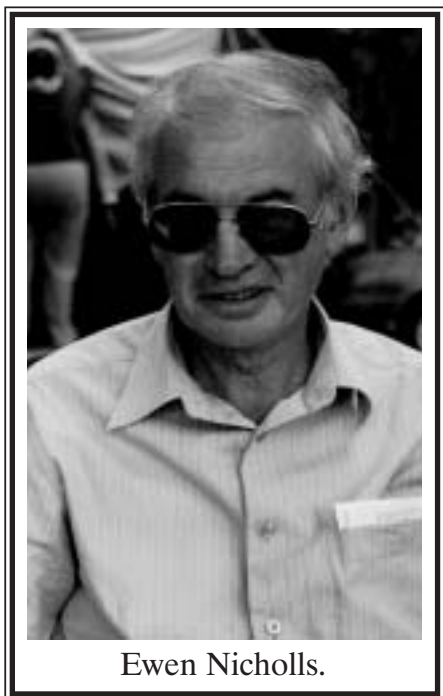
Bruce McLennan.



Kiara and Leonie Michailidis.



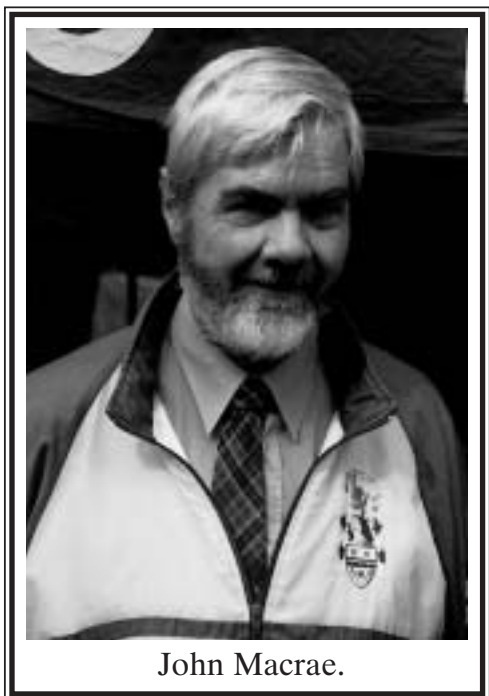
Bob and Geoff McLennan.



Ewen Nicholls.



Denise Gaston.



John Macrae.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### OURS:

15	June	2003	AGM & Ceilidh, Burwood Heights Uniting Church Hall,
9	Nov.	2003	Silver Jubilee Luncheon/Chief's Visit, Sherwood Receptions, Greenvale, Vic.(12-4.30pm)
28	Mar.	2004	Ringwood Highland Gathering & Games, Jubilee Park, 9am - 5pm.

### NSW:

8	June	2003	St. Columba's Day. - Balmain.
21	June	2003	"Tartan Day" - Lane Cove (Ph. 02 9644 4647)
21- 22	June	2003	Concert - Something for Everyone, St. Mary's (Ph. 0412 998 991)
27-29	June	2003	A Celtic Cultural Experience, Teralba. (Ph.02 4943 3436)
29	June	2003	"Repeal O' the Tartan" Service - Westmead Uniting Church. (Ph.02 9892 3209)
5 - 6	July	2003	Aberdeen Highland Games, - Aberdeen. (Ph.02 6543 8366)
29-31	Aug.	2003	"Gathering of Clans", Toukley (ph.02 4397 1711 or 1800 991 711)
26	Oct.	2003	Rythm of the Celts, Dapto Leagues Club. (Ph.02 4261 2070)
16	Nov.	2003	Comb. Scottish Societies of NSW Highland Gath. Castle Hill Showgrounds. (ph. 02 9864 5782)



### OTHERS:

6-9	June	2003	Celtic Folk Festival, Portarlington. (Ph.03 5241 2499 )
28	June	2003	Kilmore Celtic Festival, Assumption College. (Ph.03 5781 1711)
29	June	2003	Hogmanay Australis Luncheon, Ascot House, 12 noon. (Ph.03 9524 6300)
6	July	2003	Kirkin O' the Tartan, The Scots' Church, Melbourne, 11am. (Ph.03 9891 6450)
2	Aug.	2003	Celtic Nations Food & Music Festival.
5	Sept.	2003	Victorian Scottish Union Annual Conf. Wedderburn. (Ph.03 9720 4978)
12	Oct.	2003	Council of Clans Luncheon, RAAF Club, 4 Cromwell Rd. Sth. Yarra 12 noon, (Ph.03 9891 6450.)
26	Oct.	2003	Scots of Vic. AGM, Celtic Club, Queen St. Melbourne. (Ph.03 9444 9590)
14-16	Nov.	2003	Beechworth Celtic Festival, Various Venues. (Ph. 1300 366 321)
22-23	Nov.	2003	Gippsland Celtic Festival, Logan Park, Warragul. (Ph.03 5623 2661)
6	Dec.	2003	Daylesford Highland Gathering, Victoria Park, (Ph.03 5348 2001) (Incl. Victorian Pipe Band Championships.)
1	Jan.	2004	Maryborough Highland Gathering. Princes Park. (Ph.03 5461 1904)
8	Feb.	2004	Berwick Highland Gathering, Akoona Park.
12-14	Mar.	2004	New Zealand National Pipe Band Champs. at Taupo, N.Z.(Ph NZ 3. 328 7262)
21	Mar.	2004	Geelong Highland Gathering, Queens Park. (Incl. Australian Pipe Band Championships.)

### CLAN MacLENNAN GOODS FOR SALE:

Plain Ties with Crest	\$15.00	Tartan Bow Ties	\$22.00
Tartan Ties (Wool Blend)	\$29.00	Tartan Beret	\$36.00
Tartan Caps (Mens)	\$43.00	Tartan Scarf or Square	\$36.00
Clan MacLennan Post Card	\$ 2.00	MacIain Post Card (Logan)	\$ 1.50
Men's Handkerchief with Crest	\$ 3.50	Ladies Hankerchief with Crest	\$ 2.50
Tea Spoon with Crest	\$ 6.50	Sugar Spoon with Crest	\$ 6.50
Small Lapel Crest Badge	\$ 6.50	Pewter Crest Brooch	\$40.00
Key Tags with Crest	\$ 5.50	Book Mark with Crest	\$ 5.00
Clan MacLennan Kilt Pin (Pewter)	\$40.00	Polo Shirts with Crest	\$24.00
Fridge Magnet	\$ 6.00	Crest Stickers	\$ 6.00
Crest Coasters (Set of Two)	\$15.00	Crest Coffee Mug	\$20.00
Windcheaters - Grey Marle with Navy Crest	\$30.00	T.Shirts - Grey Marle with Navy Crest	\$20.00
( Available in Large or Small Print )			

#### Books

" The History & Traditions of the MacLennans of Kintail " by Dr.Jon.McLennan & James McLennan	\$28.00
" In Search of Clan MacLennan " by Malcolm Lobban & James McLennan	\$50.00

Please add Postage/Packing:      Within Australia A\$2.50 for one item plus A\$1.00 for each additional item  
    Overseas Surface Mail - triple the rates for "Within Australia".

Supply subject to availability of stock and variation in price. Cheques payable to "Clan MacLennan Association."

Orders with payment to Bob McLennan, 13 Lamart St., STRATHMORE, Vic. 3041. Tel. (03) 9379 2425