



Clan Munro Australia

Newsletter of the Clan Munro (Association) Australia

Volume 4 Issue 1

April 2007

This Month

The 70th Anniversary Clan Munro (Association) Gathering on July 28, 29 2007 will soon be on us & those of us who are going are really looking forward to it.

Our Cousin's in New Zealand are basking in the glory of their cricket wins but still managed to find time to attend the Paeroa Highland Gathering. They did lose their new tent in the high winds but had a good time anyway.

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The Gathering Report
So your ancestors spoke Gaelic and they emigrated to the American Southern States? In the next issue you will read how they influenced black Gospel music.

We will have another of the Shoalhaven stories of life in the 1800s.

Just in time for St Andrew's Night, we will have the "true" story of the haggis (If we have room!

Don

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

Chat

Our wonderful Isabell Mary (Mopsy) Munro turned 104 on the 4th of April. What a lovely lady, I wished her a happy birthday on your behalf.

I finished transcribing my second lot of 100 cards from Charles Monroe III while on holiday in Albany in February, and what a cross section of Munros, Monros, Monroes & Munroes I found! They ranged from Simon Munro, the Foulis smithy to Thomas Scott Munro who inherited his uncle's fortune in Jamaica. I saw the heartbreak of Thomas & Ann Munro who had seven children, but only one, also named Thomas survived past infancy. Then there was Simon Munro who was orphaned at the Cape of Good Hope at the age of nine years. What happened to his parents, I don't know – the year was 1815. He was brought up near Thurso by his Guardian, The Rev. George Davidson and went to Aberdeen University. He then decided to go to Quebec but did not make it, as once again the sea took its toll & the ship on which he was travelling was sunk round about 1830.

In the cards I worked on, most of the clan who emigrated, went to America or the West Indies. I have already mentioned the West Indies & in America I found Spence Monroe & his wife Elizabeth Jones with their family of 5 children. The eldest son's name looked a bit familiar & sure enough it was James Monroe, the fifth President of the USA!

Looking for long names? Then you can't go past Sutherland George Granville Leverton-Gower Munro. Anyone lost a shipbuilder from Golspie? Just let me know & I will tell you a little about Thomas Munro. And how about the Rev S.T. Monroe who gave his name to Monroeville in Salem Co New Jersey? That's all I know about him except there is a c. 22 next his name which is probably circa 22 & could be 1722 or 1822, most likely the first.

I haven't mentioned Monros but there were plenty of them eg Thomas Munro from the Fyriish branch who, like his father, was a physician. He attended George III during his illness in 1811-12 & he was also a connoisseur of the Arts.

All so interesting and what a collection of Clan Munro information we will have when this project is complete.

Welcome to Our New Members

Would you believe – seven new members since our last newsletter! Anne Munro is the daughter of Ron F Munro & so traces back to John & Sarah Munro whose son Philip was born in Montreal, Canada in 1831; Malcolm Munro brother of Ross Munro & they go back to Donald Munro, born 1823 in Ross & Cromarty. You might remember that I made contact with Malcolm while researching Eric Garfield Munro who was killed in London in WW1; Pauline Edwards is the mother of another of our members, Pauline Allen & they trace back to Daniel Munro & Jean Robb who were married in Lanark in 1836; Jan O'Brien is another of the Skye Munros who trace back to Donald Munro & Catherine McGillivray who came out on the Hercules in 1853. You can check their story in the Newsletter No 3; Roy Milne is the husband of Helen Munro & we cannot trace him back to any Munro ancestor! Alison Alger, our first American member is already a member of the Clan Munro in Scotland & she traces back to Alexander Munro born in 1749 in Whitemyre (probably in Moray); & last but not least, our newest member, Kay Lobegeiger, who can trace back to Norman Munro born in 1877 who came to Australia with his wife Helen Sullivan & family in 1910 on the SS Torilla. A very big welcome to all of you from all of us & remember, I will be very happy to receive any stories you may have about your ancestors, hobbies, etc.

H. H. Munro (Saki)

Another of our Munro authors was H.H. Munro whose pseudonym was Saki (1870-1916). He was a prolific Scottish author of the Edwardian era, often referred to as the master of short stories and compared to O Henry and Dorothy Parker. I found the following biography on this website <http://www.online-literature.com/hh-munro/> and wrote to them asking for permission to use it and this was kindly given. The biography was written by C.D. Merriman for Jalic Inc. Copyright Jalic Inc 2005.



The name 'Saki' is Farsi for 'cup-bearer', and is thought to be taken from either the ancient Persian poem *The Rubayat of Omar Khayyam* or possibly from the New World Saki monkey *Pitheciidae*, both being referred to in his acerbically witty and sometimes macabre stories.

Hector Hugh Munro was born 18 December, 1870 in Akyab, Burma, son of Scotsman Charles Augustus Munro, an inspector-general in the Burma police and his mother, Mary Frances (née Mercer) who died in a tragic accident in England with a runaway cow in 1872. He had a brother Charles and sister Ethel (who like Hector would never marry).

After the death of Munro's mother, the children were sent to Broadgate Villa, in Pilton village near Barnstaple, North Devon to be raised by aunts who frequently resorted to corporal punishment. It is said that they were most likely models for a few of his characters, notably *Sredni Vashtar*. Undoubtedly the days of his youth would provide much fodder for his future career. Leading slightly insular lives Munro and his siblings were initially educated under tutelage of governesses. At the age of 12 young Hector was sent to Pencarwick School in Exmouth and Bedford Grammar School.

In his early 20s, Munro went to Burma in 1893 to join the Colonial Burmese Military Police (an occupation which George Orwell would later pursue as well) until ill-health caused him to return to England a year later. Munro would then embark on his career as a journalist, writing for various publications including the Daily Express, the Bystander, The Morning Post, the Outlook and his Lewis Carroll-esque "Alice in Westminster" political sketches for the Westminster Gazette. He often satirised the then Edwardian society with veiled and cruel innuendo, sometimes bitter and often unconventional.

Munro's first book, a historical treatise called *The Rise of the Russian Empire* was released in 1900. His collection of short stories *Not-so-Stories* came out in 1902.

From 1902 to 1908 Munro worked as a foreign correspondent for The Morning Post in the Balkans, Russia and Paris. He would publish *The Chronicles of Clovis* (1911) a collection of his short stories and *Unbearable Bassington* (1912) shortly after. The heartless and cruel Reginald and Clovis are two of his most famous heroes. He deals with the theme of what would happen if the German emperor conquered England in *When William Came*. (1914) *Beasts and Super-Beasts* was published the same year.

World War I started and while he was officially too old, at age 44 Munro volunteered as a soldier, enlisting in the 22nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. He was offered a commission but refused, saying he could not expect soldiers to obey him if he did not have any experience. He wrote a number of short stories from the trenches and promoted to Lance Sergeant (full Corporal) in September of 1916.

Just a month later, on 16 November 1916, while serving near the French town of Beaumont-Hamel, Hector Hugh Munro was fatally shot by a German sniper's bullet. According to several sources his last words were: "Put that damned cigarette out!" It is alleged that Munro's sister Ethel had destroyed his personal papers.

Mag Munro

In our last newsletter we gave you the story of Ian Munro's family. Since then Ian has written to tell me that May Munro, one of the children in the front row, passed away last year and her daughter Keryn organised a memorial tennis day for her in October. It was very good day and Ian played his pipes to give the gathering a touch of Scotland. What a lovely and happy way to be remembered, May Munro must have been a very special lady.



Lieutenant Hugh Munro & His Wife Catherine Campbell

We have had a few stories of the hardships our ancestors faced as they made their new life in Australia. This story is from Jack Kerwin from Nova Scotia in Canada and tells how Hugh Munro from Foulis and his wife, Catherine, emigrated to America only to find himself at the start of another rebellion. Like many others, Hugh remained loyal to the British government but this time the Munros were on the losing side and had to flee to Canada and start a new life there.

This is a short sketch of Hugh Munro and his wife Catherine Campbell, who left Scotland in 1773 and finally located in Glengarry County, Ontario, in 1784.

Quite a large number of Scottish settlers migrated to America between 1760 and 1774 and settled in what was then Tryon County, now changed to Fulton County, north of the Mohawk Valley, New York State. Among the number was Hugh Munro of Foulis, Parish of Dingwall, Ross-shire, Scotland. He located some eight or ten miles northeast of the present town of Johnstown.

These Scottish settlers were influenced to come by Sir Wm. Johnson, who was at that time one of the most prominent men among the American Colonies and was one of the largest single landowners in what is now the U.S.A. He was the British Indian Commissioner for years and was able to exercise great influence among the different tribes and for this reason was granted extensive tracts of wild lands.

Hugh Munro was, as near as I can ascertain at this date, born about the year 1748 or 1750 and was quite a young man when he left Scotland. Before leaving he married Catherine Campbell and they left home with a number of their neighbours in the summer of 1773. After



sailing for some time on the ocean, their ship was disabled in some way and they had to return to the west coast of Ireland, where he and his fellow passengers were obliged to remain for the winter and until the following year. The consequence was that they did not reach America until 1774. During their stay in Ireland, their eldest son, John, was born.

Sir Wm. Johnson died in 1774, about the time of the arrival of the new settlers. He was succeeded by his only son, Sir John Johnson, who was then a young man of about twenty-six.

When Hugh Munro and his family arrived at their new home, they found the country on the eve of a rebellion. The grievances between Great Britain and her American Colonies, which had steadily been growing for several years, had become most acute at that time. A great many of the settlers in that vicinity had recently come from Scotland and when the rebellion broke out, most of them were Loyal to the British Crown and in consequence of which they suffered severely, financially and otherwise, to such an extent, that they were obliged to abandon their homes and property and move to Canada. Several attempts were made to force the settlement to join the American cause, but failed. Colonel Dayton from the American army with a part of his regiment, was sent to capture Sir John but as he had warning of this, Sir John and his followers immediately took to the woods, by the way of the Sacondoga heading for Montreal.

After nineteen days of severe hardship the Baronet and his Partisans arrived in Montreal in a pitiable condition having encountered all of the suffering that it seemed possible for a man to endure.

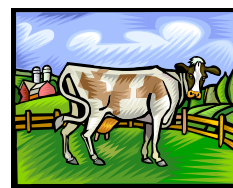
Sir John was immediately commissioned as Colonel in the British Service and raised a command of two battalions composed of those who accompanied him in his flight and other American Loyalists who subsequently followed their



example. The regiment was called "The King's Royal Regiment of New York" or "Royal Greens". In the month of January 1777 he found his way into New York and then in possession of the British forces. From that period he became not only one of the most active, but one of the bitterest foes of his own countrymen, of any who were engaged in that contest and repeatedly the scourge of his own neighbours. He was unquestionably a Loyalist from principle, else he would scarcely have hazarded, as he did, and ultimately lost domains larger and fairer, than probably ever belonged to a single proprietor in America, William Penn only, excepted."

Most of the people who settled along the front of the country and along the Black River formed part of those who left with Sir John Johnson and who enlisted in his first battalion a short time after their arrival. The McDonalds, Grants, Urquharts, Rosses, Munroes, McIntoshes and Camerons are names quite common. Hugh Munro served 6 ½ years in the first battalion and got his discharge as first Lieutenant when his regiment was disbanded in December 1783. The following year he settled on Lot 22, in the First Concession, south of the River Raisin, one mile south of Martintown, in the Township of Charlottenburg. Donald McKay was his neighbour on the west and William Urquhart on the east. He remained there for some eighteen years, then moved to Lot 19 in the 9th Concession of Charlottenburg, where he lived with his family until his death on December 24th, 1821. His wife died in 1838 having lived seventeen years after her husband's death. Both were buried in St. Andrew's Church Cemetery, Williamstown. His son Murdock and his wife Isabella McKay, are also buried in the same plot.

How many came over to Canada with Sir John Johnson in May 1776 is not exactly known, but the number must have been considerable. However, I do know that Hugh Munro was one of them. The settlers who left America abandoned everything and lost all, their property being confiscated by the state. Most of them did not possess very much being but a few years' residents of the country. Hugh Munro in his evidence to the



commissioners afterwards appointed, stated that he had a farm of 120 acres, 3 sows, 3 oxen, some sheep, some farming implements and had nineteen acres cleared, but lost it all. From the evidence taken later his neighbours possessed about the same, perhaps not considered much now, but a serious loss to them.

After the new settlement started the British

Government furnished them with provisions for two years and a few necessary articles and seed grain needed to start anew, in what was then a heavily timbered bush country, with no roads or means of getting in and out except by the Raisin River or the St. Lawrence River.

The settlement made rapid progress, even under great difficulties, judging from a report made by Mr. Pemberton, before he left, in which he said: "These people have been settled since the peace in the upper part of Canada, beginning 50 miles above Montreal and extending to Niagara. They find the soil excellent and the climate good, so much so that they have been able to supply the Kings Posts with bread and very soon they will be a good saving to Great Britain."

When Hugh Munro moved to Charlottenburgh in 1797, his two youngest sons accompanied him but the eldest son John, remained on the east part of his old farm and his great-grandson thrice removed, is now living on it. Murdock lived on Lot 19 in the 9th Concession of Charlottenburgh, the remainder of his life and Philip on Lot 19 in the 8th Concession (Earl Munro's farm Glenroy). Both were out on active service in the War of 1812. Philip was wounded in the arm, in the engagement at Hoople's Creek, near where the Battle of Crysler's Farm was fought, in November 1813.

The above information was accumulated by Hugh Munro M.L.A. 1911-1919 for Glengarry

Can You Help?

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

Just after I sent out the last newsletters, I had an email from Sue Reakes to tell me that she had made contact with Sharon Morrell who had a query in our Christmas newsletter. The Isabella Munro who Sharon was looking for is Sue's great Aunt, so we have one more success to chalk up.

One of our members, Mona Dockrey would love to find some of her family – she is descended from John Munro from Scotland (but we do not know which part) he was a mariner/waterman & he married Georgina/Georgiana Fennel on Dec 2, 1839 at St Phillips Sydney. Georgina was from Holburn, London & she came out on the Prince Regent in 1839. Their children were John b. 1842; Elizabeth b. 1843; Martha b. 1845; Charles b. 1848; William b. 1850; Serina b. 1854; Caroline b. 1856 & Mary Anne b. 1858.

Charles (b. 1848) m. Adsey Webb In 1868, her parents were Henry Webb from Torquay, Devon & Jane Steed from Stromness in the Orkney Islands. Charles & Adsey's children were Florence b. 1868; Martha b. 1870; Ethel b. 1873; Charles b.1876; Percival b. 1878; Henry b. 1881; Oswald b.1884 and Stanley (Mona's grandfather) b. 1887

They settled in North Sydney and (Mona thinks) around Waverley NSW. If any of these names are familiar to you, let me know and I will put you in touch with Mona.

This is Judith Mayell's story. "My great grandfather was Alexander Munro b. 1 Sep 1836, Tullich, Kilmuir Easter, Ross and Cromarty, Scotland. He emigrated from Scotland to Australia about 1870. He joined his brother George in the Allora district of Queensland. He worked on Talgai Homestead as head gardener and married the head cook, Mary Ann Armstrong, in 1872. I do have a considerable amount of information about Alexander, but would be interested to try to find out more about his brother, George Munro. George was born 22 Feb 1830 in Tullich, Kilmuir Easter, Ross and Cromarty, Scotland. I believe he remained in the Allora district of Queensland. I have seen a photograph of his grave stone with the inscription "Died 25 Jul 1908." His wife's name was also on the grave stone. She was Julia Ann (I don't know her maiden name) b. Abt 1844, d. 29 Jan 1922, Allora. There was also a grave stone for a John Burnett Munro b. Abt 1869, d. 2 Jun 1948, Allora. John Burnett Munro's wife was Margaret Jane d. Abt 18 Jul 1938. I am wondering if John Burnett Munro was George Munro's son." Judith would very much like to find out more about George Munro so if you can help, contact Judith at jmayell@bigpond.net.au

This one is from Ian Nicholls. He wants to find some more information about David Augustus Munro who was born in Ross-shire in 1830. His parents were Alexander and Jane Munro & the family – David, his brother William aged 8 and his two sisters Jane 4 and Margaret 2 - came to Australia on the Lady McNaughton on Jan 29 1839. David married Caroline Veal Wicks in Cassilis in 1852 and he was a district constable in Merriwa NSW until 1861 when he moved to Mendooran with his son Alexander – where he took a job as poundkeeper. His children were Christiana born 1853, Alexander born in 1854, Louisa Jane in 1856, Mary E in 1859 and Sarah in 1863 – all born in Merriwa. You can contact Ian at nicpen@bigpond.net.au

Our genealogist, Ron Munro has something which he hopes might ring a bell with someone out there. Allan Leslie MUNRO was born on June 3, 1928 in the Queen Victoria Hospital, Rose Park, South Australia. His mother was Hilda Edith Munro, father unknown. I believe he was adopted out somewhere here in South Australia just after his birth. Ron would love to contact him or any of his descendants/family. Contact Ron at rdm5108@hotmail.com

I don't have much information on this one. Helen Delamont is looking for information about Barbara Munro who married Peter Joseph Larkin 1884 in Sydney. She died 1922 Campbelltown and had about five children. Helen is Barbara's gt. gt. niece & if you know anything about Barbara, contact me & I will do the rest.

Sarah Munro is trying to find out more about her grandfather John (Jock) Mouat Munro. Alexander Munro born 27/7/1892 (one of 11 children I think) in Kirkden Forfar to Alexander Monro prior to marriage and on marriage cert then changed to Munro for all children) and Agnes (nee Monro) Although prior to marriage and on marriage cert all the children were named Munro. They were married on 6th March 1886 in Glenbervie and their children were Alexander,

Joe (unmarried) William who died in WW1 (something to do with the Indian secret service) Donald (unmarried) Agnes who went to Canada, Anne, James (Jim) who had a son called Jim (unmarried) and daughter Cath who lives in Dundee and has family. Then there was George who married lady called Anne and had 3 girls with 2 boys from her 1st marriage & then Sarah's granddad John Mouat (Jock) b 1901 who was in the army in WW1 and it was only when he was wounded that was when they found out he was only 15. He married Mary Isabella Wells (his second marriage, no info on the first) finally Ronald who's daughter Agnes is in Aberdeen.

The Australian connection is Alexander Jnr who went to New Zealand as a farmer and then moved to Cairns, Australia, he was married, but Sarah does not know when. He died in 1937 age 44 and had 5 children. Any help would be gratefully received as Alexander was a great uncle and Sarah is trying to find out more about my granddad his younger brother John Mouat Munro b 1901 (known as Jock). You can get in touch with Sarah at dru4spike@fsmail.net

Greg Long is on the hunt for his Munro's. Hugh Charles Munro & Ann Quinney AKA Cooney, Quiney, Quincey, Quene & they were married in 1860 in VIC. Greg's great grandad was Michael John who was born in 1873 in Collingwood Vic & died in 1947 in Sydney. His siblings were Hugh Hector b.1861, Catherine Margaret b.1863, Ann Georgina b.1865, Thomas Henry b.1867, Susan Elizabeth b.1869, Cecilia Beatrice b.1871 & William Charles b. 1876. Michael John was an electrician/violinist/projectionist in the silent days and worked for the JC Williamson Opera Theatre Company. You can contact Greg at gasfly@bigpond.com

Beverley Brode has just retired & loving it, so what better way to start than by looking for her ancestors – here is what she says. "I have uncovered some records. My great grandparents, Hugh Hector Munro & Louisa Peaty, were married in Collingwood Victoria on November 29th 1882. (Reference Registry of BD&M Schedule D. 1882/771. They had one daughter (my Grandmother Annie Munro b. 3/10/1884 died 22/6/1946 and a son William Munro b. 22/2/1894. (Ten years apart)?

Hugh Hector was one of seven children born to Hugh Charles Munro b.1833 in Halifax Nova Scotia and Ann Quinney b. 1839 Bradford, Clare, Ireland & married District of Bourke Church of St. Peter's Melbourne, 6/8/1860 (Ref. BD&M Schedule C. 1325/220) His siblings were; Ann Georgina born 1865 East Melbourne, Vic; William Charles born 1876 Collingwood; Thomas Henry B. 1867 Melbourne, Vic; Susan Eliza b 1874 Melbourne, Vic who married 1) Wm. Nielsen (two children William M & Claude; and 2) William Edw. Russell 16/8/1911 Methodist Church of Aust Forest Lodge Glebe, N.S.W. (Ref. BD&M 1911/9287 (No issue) died Sacred Heart Hospital Sydney 30/11/1928; continuing with Hugh's siblings we have Cecilia Beatrice b. 1871 Melbourne, Vic who married Claude Reginald Glass 27/5/1909 at Waterloo, Sydney died 14/8/1911 Alexandria, Sydney (children?) & finally Catherine Margaret b.1867 d.1867 Melbourne. Vic." If any of this rings a bell, contact Beverley on bbdb7@comcast.net

Our newest member, Kay Lobegeiger sent this one in. My ancestors emigrated to Australia in 1910 on the SS Torilla and the ages given are at the time of emigration. GGrandfather Norman (33) married Helen Sullivan (31) and their children were Norman David (11), John (9), Helen (7) (my grandmother) Jean (2) and Allan McLeod (4-1/2), all born in Scotland. Norman was born on Ibrox Farm, Govan, Glasgow. He worked in the meatworks in Brisbane & I remember him as a widower living in Wynnum, Brisbane. My great uncle John lived in Tingalpa, Brisbane with his wife Florence. If you know anything about this family, please contact Kay on kaylobegeiger@bigpond.com

David Freeman sent this. Robert Munro married Elizabeth Macphearson/MacPherson in Banff, Scotland in 1904. They moved to (? Chepstow), Gloucestershire in 1913 and had daughter Elizabeth May Munro. Elizabeth married Eric Ford in 1936 at Ashfield, NSW. If you know anything about this family, please contact David on freeman@tsn.cc

Another Munro

Ray Munro sent me this little story which I am sure you will enjoy if you have not seen it. Very appropriate as Ray's company, Feliba Pty Ltd (Australia's premier container refrigeration service provider) has as its logo - a penguin. Ray tells me that the penguin's name is Mr Munro & was named after Munro Beach in New Zealand.



Another New Zealander now calls Australia home!! Mr Munro, a very determined (as you can see from the photo) two year old fiordland penguin decided that Australia was the place to be and made the 2,000 km journey from his native New Zealand to land at Norah Head on the NSW Central Coast in November. Not surprisingly, he was a wee bit exhausted when he arrived but soon perked up in his new home at Taronga Park zoo when he found that the only two other fiordland penguins in captivity just happened to be his neighbours. Not only that, although he has not yet met them, he knows from their calls that they are ladies, so he has arrived in penguin heaven with the zoo now arranging a breeding programme for him. He hopes to meet the ladies, Chalky & Milford, very soon. By the way, the penguins cannot be returned to New Zealand in case they introduce diseases to the wild colony. I thought that Mr Munro might have been named after Burt Munro the New Zealand champion motor cyclist & although that is not the case, I am quite sure that Burt would have approved as Mr Munro displayed the same determination & grit in making it to Australia that Burt did in achieving his fantastic motor cycle world records. *Ed's note – this was written in January, so no doubt Mr Munro will have met the ladies by now.*

Meerea Park Wines

If you are looking for good wine for that special occasion then why go past one of our own?

Meerea Park Wines go from strength to strength. Garth Eather sent me this report on their 2001 Alexander Munro Semillon which was given a rating of 5 for quality & an overall rating of 95%. This is what was said: "Rhys Eather makes three Semillons, at three price levels. The Epoch is released in the year of vintage; the Terra Cotta and Alexander Munro, named after his great grandfather (also a winemaker) are released with some bottle age. All are excellent and made in classic Hunter style." The 2001 'Alexander Munro' Semillon was named 'Best Semillon' in the 2007 Penguin Good Wine Guide.

CURRENT RELEASE ALEXANDER MUNRO 2001. With a medium deep yellow colour and complex, aged bouquet of beeswax and honeysuckle, this is a delicious, semi-mature Hunter Semillon. It has great depth of flavour and softness, although there is no shortage of acid to help it age and develop. The finish is dry, finely balanced and very long. A superb Semillon with several years left in it. Great with any grilled white fleshed fish – such as bream.

By the way, the James Halliday wine companion for 2007 gives Meerea Park Winery a 5 star rating (the highest possible) placing it in the top 12.5 % of wineries in Australia.



Don's 70th

Some of you have probably been wondering just what I look like. Well this is a caricature of Bet & myself that our kids gave me for my 70th birthday. You will not be able to see it properly unless you are able to enlarge it on your computer but it has just about everything we are interested in shown there. The newsletter is on my computer; genealogy; the kilt; Munro books; bottle of whisky; chess board; Clan Munro badge and my hockey stick. Bet is sitting in a hanging basket with a pair of secateurs in her hand, baking bowl, recipe books, etc. Just a wonderful present that gives us so much pleasure & we see something new every time we look at it!

"Snowy" Munro

One of our members, Jean Munro, told me that the following story was on the Internet. I contacted the writer, David Halford, asking his permission to use his article, which he did and so I am able to bring you this story of a Munro, famous in the sport of cycling.

The early chapters of Australian cycle racing history tell of the adventures and exploits of some remarkable riders - few of whom have equalled the commitment and foresight shown by one of Coburg's life-long members, Iddo "Snowy" Munro.

Of his long list of successes between 1906 and 1909, none stand out quite like his great ride in the 'Warrnambool', when he put up a then world record for 165 miles (264km) and became the 1909 Australasian Road Champion. Thousands of spectators had lined Flemington Road in Melbourne to see how many of the record 548 entries would make it to the finish. First home was W.Knaggs with the 21 year old Munro riding his 88 inch fixed gear (52x16) Coburg-built 'Thistle', fastest time in 7hr.12min.51sec. After the finish of the race Sir Albert Spicer greeted Munro with the following words, 'You have beaten a world record. You have learned to keep your body in subjection. You have shown pluck, nerve and endurance. I hope that those good qualities, which you have cultivated so early will benefit you in life, and that yours will be a prosperous life.'



It was "Snowy's" desire to further the status of Australian cycling overseas that led to the formation of Australia's first team for the Tour de France in 1914. He captained that team, which included Don Kirkham, Charlie Snell, George Bell, and Charlie Piercey - the latter two being club mates at the Coburg Cycling Club. Initially riding as a professionals for the Paris-based Gladiator Cycles & Clement Tyre team, their first major Classic was Milan-San Remo where Munro finished 26th, finishing 10 minutes after the winner Agostini. One week later in April, Munro and the team were hitting the pave in Paris-Roubaix, Piercey breaking a wheel, Kirkham breaking his bike and "Snowy" finishing in 37th place, 7 minutes behind the 1914 winner Crubelandt. Barely two weeks later, their Tour de France preparation continued with a start in the two-week Tour of Belgium, followed by Paris-Bruxelles and Paris-Nancy.



Of the Australians that left looking for Tour glory, only "Snowy" and Don Kirkham gained selection for a Tour team (Phebus-Dunlop). The 1914 event, the last to be held before 1919, consisted of 143 starters riding 5,380km over fifteen stages. Both riders putting up a very respectable showing with their best stage finishes being Perpignan-Marseilles where they finished 4th and 5th respectively. "Snowy" went on to cross the finish line of the last stage into Paris in 10th position. In the Overall Classification Munro finished 20th with

Kirkham three places better in 17th - a very creditable and honourable attempt at the big event, reported the promoting newspaper L'Auto. Incidentally, the winner was Phillippe Thys, winner also in 1913 and again in 1920.

Even when his riding career over and he was busy founding and running his successful taxi business (Embassy Taxis), "Snowy" always stayed in close contact with his club and the bikes. He was a keen advocate for the official introduction of derailleur gears and one of the movers and shakers behind the introduction of the Herald Sun Tour. "Snowy" dedicated his life to the progress of cycling, and over the years his influence is reflected in the long-term success of cycling in Australia.

Compiled by [David Halford](#) ref: The Australian Cyclist Sept. 1949

Clan Munro Letter - 1903

I came across this letter and poem under the simple heading of "The Clan Munro" in the "The Celtic Monthly" Volume XI, September 1903 and thought it appropriate as it was written just four years before the Clan Munro (Association) was formed. It was just signed D.S.M. Aberdeen - I wonder if he had anything to do with the formation of the Clan Munro (Association). My apologies to those who subscribe to the theory that the Munros came from Ireland as D.S.M. obviously does not.

"Sir, I am not aware whether it is the reticence of our Clan or otherwise that has hitherto kept us from having a general meeting of our own, but, in view of the approaching season, the following lines may in part help to kindle the requisite enthusiasm."

The "Caledonia," brave and bold,
From Scotland's mountains stern
Sprung not, as we are sometimes told
From warlike sons of Erin.

Of a distinctive Northern race
We sons of Scotland sprung
Who don the Celtic garb with grace
And speak the "mother tongue."

Of that distinctive clan brigade
'Tis ours among the few,
To wear the tartan and the plaid,
And "fly" the Eagle too

In many lands our name is seen,
And on Columbia's shore
A mighty space of "prairie green"
The name of Munro bore,

And though on Conon's lovely side
The pibroch now is still,
Our chief looks up with glowing pride
To Wyvis' stately hill.

D.S.M. Aberdeen

Anzac Day Wreath Laying

The Clan Munro has been asked by the NSW Pipe Band Association to lay a wreath on Anzac Day. We will be represented once again by Andrew Gates, who did the job so well last year – and hasn't that year passed so quickly. The Scottish Act of Remembrance Parade will start from the corner of George & Bathurst Streets after the main parade finishes - approx. 12.45. Try and get there and support your Munros.

Valz

Jim Hyslop died on Feb 1, 2006 and is survived by his wife Virginia and his nine children, Mary Anne, Deardre Eleanor, Catriona, Helen Jane, Paul James, Kirsten Rose, Morag Isobel, Calum Patrick and Seumas all by Jim's first wife Veronica Cecilia (Verna). Jim was a tug boat captain and some of you might remember his exciting account of the rescue of the MV Island Gas from the Saumarez reef in Newsletter No 4.

The Walking Wounded

I had a call from Morna Mack Scott to tell me, amongst other things, that she still has to get about with the aid of a walking stick after breaking her leg rather badly in December. Mind you that is the third time she has broken that same leg! Then I had an email from Daphne Grinberg to tell me that one of the reasons I had not heard from her for quite a while is that she had broken her arm but it has mended now. Caroline Merrylees is convalescing after a serious operation & is on the way to recovery.

I know that there are a few other members not on top of the world at the moment and we wish them all a speedy recovery.

Missing Member

I have been trying to contact Allan Munro for some time now without success. Allan is from Eumundi in Queensland. If any of you can give me a clue to his whereabouts, I would be most grateful.

Munro Genealogy Data Base

Allen Alger's Munro Genealogy Data Base has arrived and you should have received your copy by now. If you ordered one and have not received it, please let me know. I ordered four extra CDs so if anyone would like one let me know - the cost is \$18.00 including postage and if you do want one, remember that it has to be used in conjunction with a genealogy program. I would love to have some feed back as to how successful you have been, so make sure you let me know. This is a huge on going project and names are being added at the rate of 3000 to 5000 a year, so it would be a good idea to send your tree to Allen to see if it matches up with any others. An updated copy will be on sale each year & I will let you know when it is available.

Membership

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

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|----------------------------|--|-----------|
| Annual Membership: \$25.00 | Spouse or children of member under 18 years | \$8.00** |
| Three Years: \$55.00 | Spouse or children of member under 18 years (3 years) | \$20.00** |
| Ten Years: \$160.00 | Spouse or children of member under 18 years (10 years) | \$70.00** |

Life Membership is calculated according to age as follows: -

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Up to Age 40: | 3 X 10 Year Dues | \$480.00 |
| Age 40 to 50: | 2 X 10 Year Dues | \$320.00 |
| Age 50 to 60: | 1½ X 10 Year Dues | \$240.00 |
| Age 60 and over: | Same as 10 Year Dues | \$160.00 |
| Age 80 and over | Half Ten Year Dues | \$80.00 |

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

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

Clan Munro (Association) Australia Newsletter

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

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