



# CLAN MACGILLIVRAY

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SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



The Clan Society is at a crossroad. In this Journal you will read an important message from the Secretary regarding the future of the Australian chapter of the Clan MacGillivray. We foreshadowed this moment in the February 2015 Newsletter. The Clan committee more recently discussed the issue while attending the Highland Games in Ringwood. It was agreed to circulate the “positions vacant” application form that you will find in this Journal in an effort to gather a new committee after 2016.

In 2016 our wonderful Secretary David will be stepping down. So too will Heather, our Archivist. Both David and Heather have been members of the Society since “day one” in 1976. David became Assistant Secretary and Treasurer in 1981 and Secretary in 1985. Heather was our unofficial Archivist for many years before being officially appointed in 1990.

Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, Ted Foster and Newsletter Editor, Pat Foster will also be stepping down after many years of wonderful service to the Clan.

With all the positions mentioned above becoming vacant, we urge you to consider standing for one. We will let all members know the outcome in the February 2016 Newsletter.

In this year’s Journal we are pleased to publish some recent work by a curator and academic, Sophie Jensen regarding John MacGillivray. While we have published stories about him in past journals, this new work sets him as a talented and determined natural scientist with contemporaries that include Darwin and Gould.

In 1999 we published some letters discovered in the Inverness Library written by Angus, John and Duncan Smith of Diamond Creek (Victoria) to their cousin Finlay MacGillivray of Nairn, Scotland. This year we re-publish extracts together with some more recent work regarding the connections mentioned in the letters. We have included an interesting family tree with links to the letters and also with some of our Clan members.

This Journal will also present the final instalment of the diary of John William MacGillivray. In 2011 we published some entries he made in 1882. His father was also John William, the natural scientist. His grand father was William, professor of Natural History at Aberdeen University. In a strange twist, following work as a clerk in banking, the diarist was given a job at the Australian Museum in Sydney. One of his entries in 1884 is particularly poignant. He notes the tragic death of his son, Walter.

Our correspondent, Ann Brown has once again reviewed the Ringwood Highland Games and urges all who can to come along to the 50th anniversary of those games in 2016.

As always, if you have any comments on the Journal please send them to me or David.

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**EUAN MCGILLIVRAY**

## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY



*David and Heather at the Ringwood Highland Games, 2015.*

As reported in our February 2015 newsletter Heather and I will be retiring from the committee on the day of the Ringwood Highland Games in March 2016 after 35 years of service. Although we enjoy our involvement with the Society and the friendship of its members we are concerned about it continuing on into future and feel that as we both start to feel the affects of ageing - it's time we handed over the reins.

It is most important that the world's oldest and largest MacGillivray Society continues to prosper and grow into the future. In 2016 the society will celebrate its 40th anniversary. This will be a good date for us to hand over the reins to others.

Sadly our Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor Ted and Pat Foster also resigned from their positions after many years of service.

We ask each and every member to seriously consider applying for any of the vacant positions or any other position on the committee for that matter. In this age of technology it would not be necessary for the committee to be centred in one particular city or state. We are open to your comments, suggestions and offers of assistance and applications for vacant positions.

An application form is enclosed. The world's oldest Clan MacGillivray Society needs your assistance.

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**DAVID MCGILLIVRAY**

# JOHN MACGILLIVRAY, MERITS ALL HIS OWN

SOPHIE JENSEN



*The expedition to the south seas – HMS Herald and the "Torch", Steam Tender*



*The only known picture of John MacGillivray from his brother in law's article, "A martyr to science".*

Sophie Jensen is a Senior Curator at the National Museum of Australia, Canberra. Her PhD examines the life of John MacGillivray and his work in Australia. Her scholarship is funded through a Discovery Grant administered by the Australian National University.

*Sophie said that her research "...has been fascinating - MacGillivray's life is a rich one and I'm thoroughly enjoying every minute of the work. The thesis will primarily be a biography but will also examine the collections that were amassed by MacGillivray (due to my Museum background) and the locations that he travelled to. Early next year I will be traveling to locations on the Great Barrier Reef, Torres Strait and Port Essington in order to photograph and film some of the sites mentioned during MacGillivray's travels.."*

In order to commemorate the visit in 1854 of HMS Herald to Raoul Island, the northernmost island in the southern Pacific's Kermadec group, Captain Henry Mangles Denham chose to name various landmarks after some of his officers. The newly bestowed names included Rayner Point, Milne Islets, Parsons Rock and MacGillivray Bluff. Seven years later, when Denham's charts arrived at the Admiralty in London, one name had been erased: MacGillivray Bluff had become Fleetwood Bluff, renamed after Denham's son. In many ways this disappearance captures far more about the life of naturalist and collector John MacGillivray, for whom it was initially named, than had it remained as a commemoration of his visit.

Although in this instance MacGillivray's name may have been erased



*HMS Fly, off Sydney about 1842.*

geographically, historically it is woven throughout the narratives and accounts of nineteenth-century collecting and exploration in the Pacific and Australia. His presence as assistant naturalist on board HMS Fly (1842–1846) and naturalist aboard HMS Rattlesnake (1846–1850) and HMS Herald (1852–1855), combined with his later career as a private collector, mean that few could rival his levels of knowledge and experience as a collector and ethnographer of Australian and Pacific material.

The career path he followed, the choices he made, the opportunities he pursued, his difficulties and, sometimes spectacular, failures (and failings) all help to create a vivid picture of the intricacies of the system of natural history collecting during this crucial period.



*HMS Rattlesnake ship's emblem*

#### A CAREER DWARFED BY GIANTS

On the surface it would seem that MacGillivray had all the ingredients required to establish a successful and prominent career within the British scientific community. By the time he was appointed as naturalist on the Rattlesnake in 1846, it appeared that he was on track to do just that. Only four years older than Thomas Huxley, the assistant surgeon on board the same ship, he already had one major voyage under his belt and, unlike Huxley, a strong family background in the natural sciences.

The ghostly presence of MacGillivray Bluff, however, reflects a life eventually overwritten by the reputation and achievements of his contemporaries. As well as Huxley, these were some

of the leading intellectuals, scientists, explorers and collectors of his day – figures such as Joseph Beete Jukes, Joseph Hooker, John Gould and Owen Stanley. The experiences and careers of many of MacGillivray's associates were crucial in the debates and development of Darwinian ideas in Britain and abroad. MacGillivray, however, is often regarded as never having lived up to the potential he first demonstrated as a young, enthusiastic assistant naturalist collecting for the celebrated Earl of Derby aboard the *Fly*. He did not publish widely and made no significant contribution to the intellectual debates and discussions surrounding, and in many cases stimulated by, the collections he amassed. MacGillivray remained primarily a collector, observer and documenter.

In 1867, twenty-one years after they had set out together on the *Rattlesnake*, MacGillivray died poor and alone in a cheap Sydney hostel, so removed from the society he had previously inhabited that his death certificate recorded 'mother and father unknown'. At the same time, back in England Huxley was busy making his name as a key player within a dynamic scientific community and on his way to becoming one of England's most powerful intellectual figures. The stark contrast of these two lives, which ran for a short time along parallel lines, makes MacGillivray's life, career and eventual fall from grace, particularly intriguing.



*John Gould about 1860. MacGillivray described to eminent ornithologist John Gould his enthusiasm for the discoveries while on the *Rattlesnake* trip to New Guinea.*

Unlike many other visitors to the Antipodes, MacGillivray never returned to Britain. This experience of dislocation and relocation is an important contributing factor to our understanding of his responses to the people, landscapes and environments throughout Australia and the Pacific. His attitudes evolved along with his status as he was first a visitor, later an expert and finally a resident. He is also representative of each of the major streams of scientific collecting during the period. He worked as a private collector for celebrated individuals such as the Earl of Derby, Hugh Cuming and John Gould.



*Bird of Paradise, image by Ray Wilson, Bird and Wildlife Photographer.*

He was a key participant in the tradition of naturalist voyagers attached to British surveying vessels, and is also representative of that class of collectors who struck out on their own, as agents roaming in search of profitable ventures, saleable items and personal fortunes. MacGillivray's life and collections therefore provide a unique insight into the mindset and experiences of a collector and naturalist in the nineteenth century.

#### AN UNSURPASSED FIELDWORKER

There is one area, common and key to each of the phases in MacGillivray's career, in which his reputation has remained intact – his energy, zeal and skill as a fieldworker remain undoubted.

It is difficult now to imagine the way in which a collector such as MacGillivray would have viewed the world. To see through such eyes would be to be constantly alert and searching. In a telling passage from a letter to a family friend, MacGillivray complained that in train travel 'the dazzling of the eyes by our swiftly dashing past objects which I continually strain my eyes to see produced a most painful sensation from which I have just recovered'. Unlike a casual gaze of admiration or even the careful observation of an interested observer, MacGillivray's eyes were trained to seek, to find, and to analyse his environment in every detail and at every opportunity. His interests in zoology, ornithology, botany, ethnography and geology meant that his every sense would have been engaged, alive and every feature of the environment under constant scrutiny. Each new landscape, island or environment was a naturalist's potential goldmine, every individual encountered, a source to be exploited.

Each birdcall overhead, insect fluttering by and track underfoot offered possible discoveries. MacGillivray would have looked with anticipation at every tree, around each corner. Hoping, expecting to find something new, something never seen before – a 'novelty' to send back to those eagerly awaiting the results of each foray into the natural world. The excitement and adventure is conveyed as he describes to the eminent



*William MacGillivray, John's father, the Regius Professor of Natural History at Aberdeen. Both William and John believed that collectors should be in the field and not rely on others to find specimens for them. Both also had the capacity to upset the scientific establishment.*

ornithologist, John Gould, his feelings regarding the Rattlesnake's visit to New Guinea:

"Our New Guinea prospects, however, are better, and with them are associated in my mind visionary prospects of Dendrolagi, Cucsi and Birds of Paradise, jumbled up with imaginary skirmishes with the natives."

MacGillivray was striving to paint a picture – for himself and for his colleagues in England. His letters, journals and publications are an attempt to capture his environment in every detail. His aim, to identify every possible

inhabitant of each environment he encountered. He proudly informed Forbes that during one of the cruises of the Rattlesnake they had had the opportunity to land on 37 islands along the coast, 'several of which, from their small size, or the length of our stay, were thoroughly ransacked'. Despite his choice of words, MacGillivray was far from indiscriminate scientifically.

His strength was his ability to be selective: to identify what items would provoke the interest of his colleagues and patrons back in England, and to pursue it with determination. MacGillivray's love of fieldwork is perhaps the area in which his father, William MacGillivray, Regius Professor of Natural History at Aberdeen, can be seen to have had the greatest influence upon him. William MacGillivray had strong views on those he branded 'cabinet collectors', who paid others to collect on their behalf and who would then spend their time describing and classifying without ever observing the species in the field. William's enthusiasm for immersion in fieldwork is seen in the introduction to his abridged version of William Withering's *A Systematic Arrangement of British Plants* (first published in 1830): Its object is to induce the young to betake themselves, when occasion offers, to the fields and woods, the mountains and shores, there to examine for themselves the rich profusion of nature.

John MacGillivray 'betook' himself into fields, mountains and woods whenever the opportunity arose. Despite his occasional complaints that those benefiting from his exertions had little understanding of the work required, his writings display a real relish for adventure and living rough in the bush; for contact with the 'natives' and a constant hunt for the new. He was proud of his ability, obviously enjoying the rough spectacle he presented and the physical labour involved. He described himself to Forbes as sporting: 'reef boots', flannel trousers, leather belt, check shirt open in front, a shooting jacket which sadly wanted mending and washing, and an old straw hat shading a sunburnt and unshaven visage. And then with the thermometer at 90° in the shade I had to carry water, ammunition, skinning materials, a double barrelled gun, insect net, collecting boxes, a quantity of Botanical paper and boards, besides two days' provisions. After keeping watch for hostile natives, rising early and staying up late to search for collections he exclaimed: 'Yet what was the result of this fagging? A few birds, none of which were rare, about 25 species of plants, 3 or 4 insects and a Helix!'

#### FRUSTRATIONS OF A 'MERE COLLECTOR'

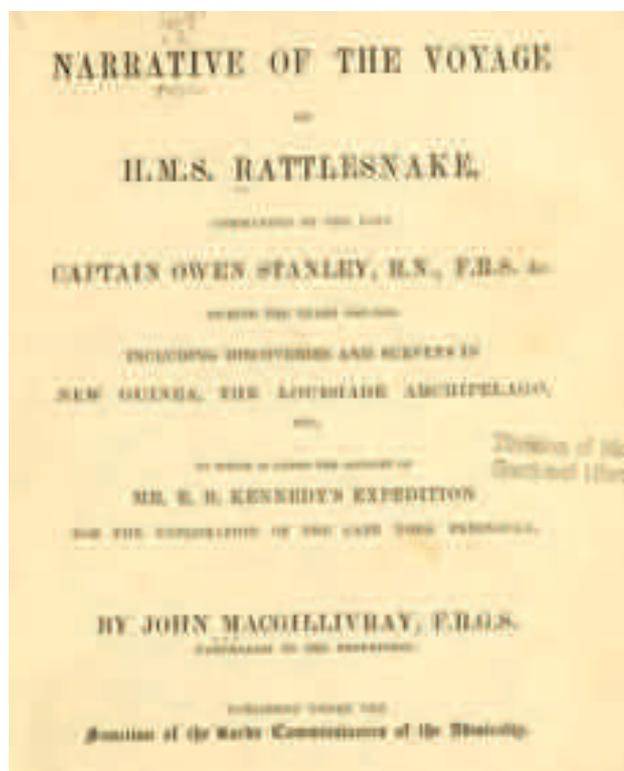
Unlike his father, MacGillivray failed to translate his fieldwork, observations and collecting into a successful scientific career, although William MacGillivray's work is certainly more appreciated

now than it was during his lifetime. He too is reputed to have had a rather irascible and impetuous nature, and he made a number of powerful enemies throughout his career. MacGillivray senior was not a part of the powerful networks and scientific community that would have been useful in launching his son's career. In one telling description, Darwin – despite professing enthusiasm for William MacGillivray's work on the birds of Scotland – observed that he 'had not much the appearance and manners of the gentleman'. An echo of this sentiment can be felt in Sir William Hooker's comments regarding John MacGillivray's Narrative of the Voyage of HMS Rattlesnake, which he felt was 'better than could be expected from a man of restless uncouth appearance and manners'.

Many of the observations made regarding the character of William MacGillivray, and the limitations that this character placed upon his work, could equally be applied to his son. At the height of his career John MacGillivray was aware that he was not making the transition from collector to scientist, but he laid the blame of this failure upon the heavy workload of an official collector. In a letter to Edward Forbes he complained that 'having been unassisted to make collections in all the departments, my duties too often merge into those of a mere collector and preserver of specimens'.

This distinction would have been emphasised as he observed shipmate Thomas Huxley's deliberate, single-minded determination to forge a scientific career through his analysis and description of the Medusae family during his time on board the Rattlesnake. MacGillivray lacked Huxley's drive and vision in this respect. The time taken by fieldwork combined with the required preparation and packing of specimens – a task he complained to Hooker, took 'all day and half the night' – left little room for the excursions of the mind required for minute description and analysis. MacGillivray was, however, aware of the significance of the descriptive work. Just as eagerly as those back in England awaited the fruits of his fieldwork, he awaited their opinions in order to confirm that his 'novelties' were indeed such, that the judgement he had shown in acquiring his specimens was correct, and that the risks and deprivations he had endured had been worthwhile. To Forbes he wrote 'You must know how cheering it is to me so far from home as I am to hear of any novelties that may have been transmitted by me'.

To another correspondent, Adam White, he wrote of the great encouragement that he gained from the news of the reception of his novelties. Although he may never have succeeded in making a name for himself in scientific circles, he is remembered in the scientific names of a number of birds, shells and plants.

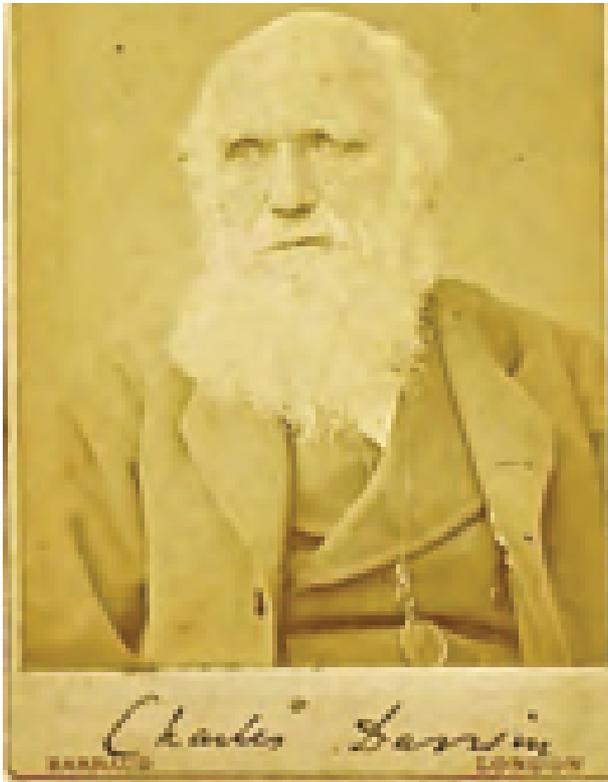


Frontispiece from the *Narrative of the Voyage of HMS Rattlesnake*. Sir William Hooker commented that this work was "better than could be expected from a man of restless uncouth appearance and manners".

In his natural history notebook – found in his rooms after his death – a small list of some of these appears on one of the pages. It was one way he could mark his legacy to the world of natural science.

## DISMISSAL AND DISGRACE

MacGillivray's travels on board the Admiralty's surveying vessels are well documented. Harder to piece together, but no less fascinating, is the latter part of his career. The great shift in MacGillivray's fortunes occurred with his dramatic dismissal from HMS Herald. The charges brought against him were



*Charles Darwin. While he was impressed with MacGillivray's work, he said he "had not much the appearance and manners of a gentleman".*

grave: insubordination, intoxication, selling his collections for personal gain and other financially scandalous behaviour. The verdict of the Board of Enquiry was conclusive. On 26 April 1855, John MacGillivray was dismissed from service. For his captain, Henry Mangles Denham, the relief at being rid of him was immense. He wrote that with MacGillivray's dismissal he felt 'as if a blister was removed from my heart'. When Huxley heard of MacGillivray's difficulties he somewhat scathingly commented 'It is most lamentable that a man of so much ability should have so utterly damned himself as MacGillivray has, but he is hopelessly Celtic'.

## LIFE ON THE FRINGES

MacGillivray himself was silent regarding his dismissal. No record survives of his thoughts and feelings. He did not attempt to clear his name or justify his actions. No clear account exists either as to how the enquiry proceedings took place. The picture that emerges from the fragments that remain is of a painful, passionate, bitter and very public dispute as tensions, simmering for years in the close confines of the vessel, finally erupted. This enquiry would shape the rest of John MacGillivray's life. It would also colour the way in which his career, contributions and character would be regarded, recorded and related until the present day. MacGillivray's situation as he stepped ashore in Sydney in April 1855 was serious.

He was in utter disgrace. He had insulted and offended key figures both in Britain and in his new home. He had debts to pay, a family to support and no real prospect of being able to do either. Where he went and how he survived is not known. MacGillivray effectively disappeared into the city for over a year and was lost. It was left to Huxley and Hooker to raise the funds required to send MacGillivray's wife, Williamina, and three children to Australia. Sadly, Williamina died on board the Washington Irvine two weeks out of Sydney. John Gray, Williamina's brother, wrote to Huxley thanking him for his

kind attention to his sister and informing him of her death. He reported that the children were quite well and now in good hands. These hands, however, were not those of their father. Of him Gray reported that he was doing 'no good' and that any hope of reform was 'now doubtful'. Despite (or perhaps because of) the length of time MacGillivray had spent in and around Sydney during his career, he had failed to ingratiate himself with the dominant forces in the Sydney scientific community – most particularly the Macleay family. Here again Huxley had the advantage, having successfully cultivated a good relationship with William Macleay. Another Sydney scientific figure, Gerard Krefft, who beat MacGillivray to a curatorial position at the Australian Museum, wrote that: John MacGillivray, the well known naturalist of HMS 'Rattlesnake' was one of the competitors, and this gentleman would certainly have carried the day had not the Macleays hated him thoroughly because he was a clever man. I confess Mr MacGillivray (with all his failings) was superior to myself.

#### WANDERINGS IN THE PACIFIC

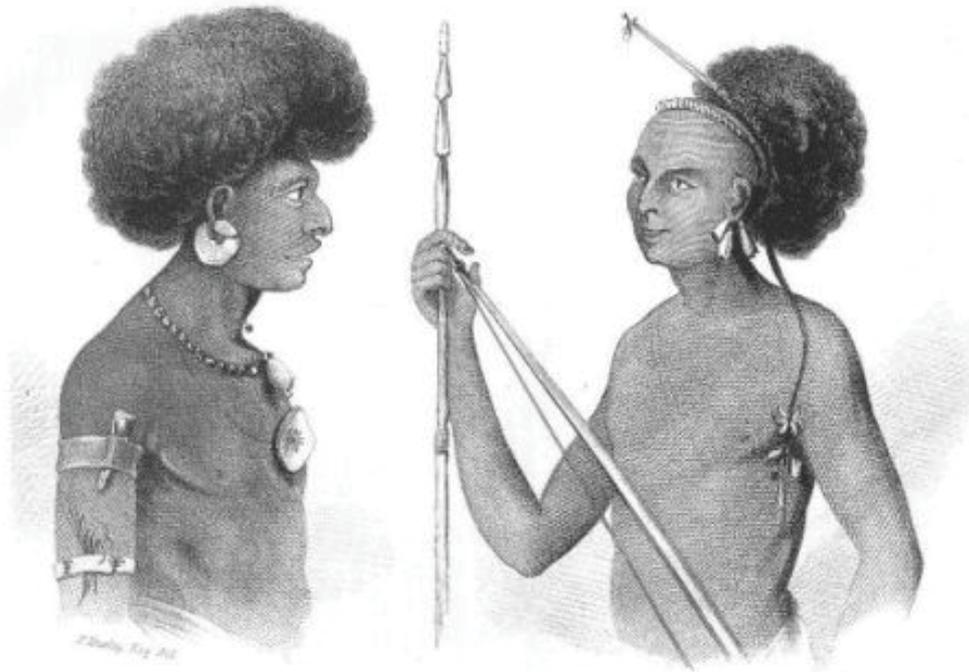
Had MacGillivray successfully entered into Sydney's scientific circles or gained the patronage of figures such as the Macleays, he may have had more success in rebuilding a career in his newly adopted country. As it was, he was forced to seek his fortunes elsewhere,



*Gerard Krefft, natural scientist decried MacGillivray as a "clever man, and with all his failings was superior to myself".*

leaving Australia on 11 February 1858 on the appropriately named brig Spec, bound for New Caledonia.

For the next two years MacGillivray worked as a private collector in New Caledonia, and then Vanuatu, based for some time on the island of Anietyum. For a short time he worked for the sandalwood trader James Paddon and was employed by him to undertake a cruise of the Torres Strait and Cape York in search of sandalwood, beche-de-mer and other tradable commodities. MacGillivray wrote up this (spectacularly unsuccessful) cruise in a series of 11 articles for the Sydney Morning Herald in 1862 under the title of 'Wanderings in Tropical Australia'.



*Natives of Paradise Bay*

### *Natives of Paradise Bay*

Between 1864 and 1866 MacGillivray worked as a private collector in partnership with James Fowler Wilcox, based in South Grafton in northern New South Wales. (Wilcox too had served onboard HMS Rattlesnake as a private collector for Captain Owen Stanley's father, the Bishop of Norwich, on behalf of the Ipswich and Norwich museums.) The business relationship between the two men did not work as well as either of them had hoped and ended on an acrimonious note, with MacGillivray swearing to 'leave this house never to return'. Despite this, MacGillivray obviously enjoyed his time in the area delivering a series of successful lectures at the Grafton School of Arts and playing a key

role in organizing material to be sent from Grafton for the 1866 Intercolonial Exhibition in Melbourne.

After dissolving the partnership, MacGillivray moved back to Sydney where he undertook 'daily conchological exercises' for James Cox, organising and assisting to catalogue his land shell collection. When he died, MacGillivray was busy planning an extended collecting trip to northern Australia. Although excited at the prospect of the trip, he wrote that he must first complete his work for Cox: 'I shall do it, if the asthma doesn't choke me meanwhile, or one of the wild bulls of Bashan (or the county of Cumberland) stick his horns

into my gizzard and bring my carcass before the Coroner'. This was from the last known letter written by MacGillivray.

He died on 6 June 1867, alone in his attic retreat.

MacGillivray was a natural communicator, perhaps somewhat obstreperous, certainly proud, but blessed with some charm and charisma. Despite the disappearance of MacGillivray Bluff, his name lives on in other forms. A rare petrel, a tropical reef and a number of shells and plants carry his name.

His narrative of the Rattlesnake remains one of the outstanding accounts of nineteenth-century voyaging in the Pacific, and a closer examination of his career and contributions will help to place him as a key figure in the development of the natural sciences in Australia.

The obituary published in the *Clarence and Richmond Rivers Examiner* perhaps best captures the complexity of this remarkable man and is a reminder of the qualities that have since been forgotten.

*This gentleman, lately a resident amongst us, died on Thursday last, in Sydney. It is to be feared that his death was accelerated by indulgence, the temptation to which he could not always resist, but in spite of this weakness, he was a man of honor and veracity, a firm friend and a most amiable companion. His acquirements as a scientific naturalist were of the highest order, and accompanied by a remarkable absence of pretence or self sufficiency ... the minuteness and accuracy of his information on all subjects connected with his noble profession; his sly humor, always void of offence; his liberal spirit and strong sense made him a remarkable person. He had the cultivation of a scholar, and the heart of a gentleman. His one failing he shared with but too many: his merits were all his own.*

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SOPHIE JENSEN

# THE DIAMOND CREEK LETTERS

DAVID & HEATHER MCGILLIVRAY

In 1995 Robert McGillivray of Edinburgh, Scotland, whilst doing some research in the Inverness Library came across some letters dated 1854, 1855 and 1868, which had been sent to Finlay McGillivray of Nairn. They were from brothers John, Angus and Duncan Smith of Glenard Station, Arthurs Creek, which is near Diamond Creek in Victoria. Their mother Margaret McGillivray sister of John McGillivray and Elizabeth Smith of Lagg, married Duncan Smith in Boleskine, Invernesshire, Scotland.

Archivist Heather McGillivray has put together a family tree of the MacGillivray families in Dunmaglass that places the Smith brothers and Finlay McGillivray. Note that one of our members, Noela Smith of Brisbane is the GG Grand-daughter of Janet McGillivray and Hugh Shaw and that Margery is Secretary David's GG Grand-mother.

ANGUS SMITH WRITES..

## **Diamond Creek 8th Feby 1854**

My Dear Cousin

I have almost entirely fallen out of the way of writing letters since I came to this colony. I shall not trouble you with any vague, useless lengthened apology in the way of self justification for not writing sooner, but I must state that I never forgot you or the obligations under which I last wrote to you. My attachment to my native land and to those whose friendship I enjoyed whilst I lived in it is not in the least abated by being transported to this remote colony. I could wish to mingle in their amusements, join in their conversation, and enjoy and reciprocate their kindness and hospitality. But I have no morbid desire - no feeling of dissatisfaction for the choice I have made in coming to this land - to be transplanted and set down to toil with nothing in view but a whole life of the drudgeries of a common teacher. Notwithstanding discomforts and hardships are to be endured far greater than I ever experienced at home, but there is a prospect of surmounting those hardships and inconveniences which animates to a struggle for a comfortable independence.

As you saw my letter to my father I shall say nothing of what I said then. Since then matters have not thrived so well with us. Duncan was taken ill with scurvy

about the beginning of April, and I about the 20th of the same month. Duncan was confined to bed upwards of three months. I about two and a half. Neither of us was able to walk a single step. The disease came on like rheumatism in the ankles and knee joints. The joints swelled and became stiff, especially the ankles. Parts of the skin assumed a purple colour, but there was no eruption whatever. The gums became soft and spongy and the teeth loosened. Sometimes the pain in the joints was excruciating. On the 18th of July I was able to walk out a little on crutches, Duncan on the 5th of August. We gradually recovered and have been perfectly well for some time back. I need not attempt to describe my feelings of joy when health began to return with that eagerness and delight I seized the opportunity of walking out. The disease must have been brought on from the want of a vegetable diet. As soon as we found cabbage which was exceedingly scarce at this time a great change was soon effected. John was all the time in good health, which was a great mercy, he is well at present.

Shearing the sheep is the busiest time in the year in the bush. The sheep are first washed which is disagreeable work. I shall give you a sketch of the process. In order to carry on efficiently there must be 8 or even 10 men employed and these will wash from 800 to 1000 sheep in a day. The wash-pond is a deep pool divided by long sticks laid across into

their apartments or pens. At the side of the first pen there is a platform about 4 ft above the water from which the sheep are thrown down headlong. There are men on the cross sticks below with long forks keeping them about in the water and rubbing them. When they are kept in the first pen they are then passed under the sticks into the second, where they are worked still further in the same way, they are then passed into the third and guided out. They are put through the wash-pond twice. They are allowed three days to dry then shorn.. We performed this operation ourselves which kept us going a considerable time. A good shearer will shear 80 sheep per day and do the work well. Some will go for about 100, but the shearing cannot be done properly. I could make from 3-40, Duncan from 40-50. They shear standing, never tie the beasts legs. The charge for shearing this year was enormously high, 2 pounds per 100 sheep. The shearing is performed' in woolsheds which are floored and kept very clean. Charge for carrying to Melbourne was also high, we paid at the rate of 8 pounds per ton.

Our run is within the "Settled Districts". We hold a licence from Government. We may keep it as long as we choose, provided the ground will not be sold, which is not likely to be done here very soon. It is not very good for sheep, and it is hard work to shepherd them, the ground being far from level, the ranges are high and the gullies short and deep,

and it is bad work to follow the sheep up and down these ranges. In order to pay a full amount for which we purchased the sheep we must sell a portion of them very soon, and that being the case I daresay we shall sell the whole flock and perhaps buy some cattle. We were obliged to sell their wool at a considerable reduction for 1/3p whereas if we had sold it a fortnight sooner we would have got 3p more per lb. The average weight of fleece was about 2 1/2 lb. Report of war between Russia and Turkey was the cause of this depression in the wool market. In spite of all our efforts we sometimes lose some of the sheep, and when any are left out at night on the run they are in great danger of being bit by native dogs. We had a few killed a few nights ago.

As soon as we dispose of the sheep we mean to turn our attention to something else. Though we mean to keep the place at least till we are able to have it restocked, we do not mean to remain all here. One of us must be obliged to remain. What we may turn to is not certain yet. There are good wages given for every sort of employment.

This season has been unusually dry and hot. We had no rain during the three months Oct. Nov. Dec. consequently the grass dries up and becomes scarce. At the end of Dec. and the beginning of Jany. fires began to break out which burnt up a great deal of grass and some

property. In our neighbourhood on Capt. MacPherson's run the grass of three or four flocks was burnt. He also lost upwards of 30 bales of wool by it. Fires ran over a part of our run, but it was only the outskirts where we seldom went with the sheep. People burn the grass round their huts in order to protect them from fire. We burnt all around ours. Fires with high hot wind, burn with fearful rapidity, and are most alarming. Some lose their lives by them sometimes.

In Jany. heavy rain came and extinguished all fires about here. Jany. has been much cooler than the previous months, though it and Feby. are generally the hottest in the year. The heat at home is nothing to compare with the heat here. Fancy the succession of the hottest day you ever felt there with an unclouded sky and the violent heat of an almost vertical sun but you can hardly form an adequate idea of the burning heat of this climate. When it approaches midday the sheep seek the shade of the trees with all the speed you saw cattle seek shelter from a heavy shower of rain, and will not go forth to feed again till it is about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Perspiration is often very copious even when doing nothing, but it is far better for a man to be doing something, even on the hottest day, than to be idle.

We have enclosed a piece of ground for a garden and planted some potatoes, cabbage, onion, carrots, melons, turnips

and peas, but owing to the dry season, the onions and carrots did not grow at all, and a few of the other things came to little good. The potatoes and cabbage have grown pretty well. Flour is selling at 33 pounds per ton, with every appearance of a rise.

There are a great many people at the gold diggings and a considerable quantity of gold found, but I feel no great inclination to go at present. One may go and spend a long time there and get nothing; there is a great deal of lottery in digging for gold, several new fields have been found, but none equal to the old.

John MacGillivray is giving up the place he took close to us, he found he could not make anything of it, he has not engaged in anything else yet. William his brother and family were up with him at New Year's Day. Wm is working in Melbourne as a mason, receiving 30/- per day, but I am sorry to state that he is given over to drink more than ever. His wife also drinks. What can be expected in such a family, but misery and ruin. His wife lives with his brother at present. Their son died coming out. About the end of Dec I was in Melbourne and saw Alexr Smith, Tailor, he has been unwell most of the time since he came to this colony, but was recovering when I saw him and able to do a little breaking stones.

He lives in a tent. From what he said of his complaint I conclude it was scurvy, just the same as we had. At the time I saw John Fraser, Blacksmith from Croachy and some of his family. One of his sons died a few days before, and four more of his children were in hospital. About a week after we received the sad intelligence that he himself had died, leaving a large family totally unprovided for. I also saw Black McIntosh's son. He has followed the diggings all along and done pretty well for himself. He is a great help to the tailor, and also to the Blacksmith's family. I also saw the son of Alister Doun, Caulso who came from Geelong that day and returned without any stay. I saw a son of Alexr. McIntosh, Gortan again he has gone to the diggings... Since we came to live here I have seen no acquaintance known to you except those mentioned above. Nor have I had the means of obtaining further information regarding those of whom I said something in my letter to my father. We are shut out here from all society, unless one of us may chance to go to Melbourne or happen to see a newspaper we have no means of knowing what may be transacted in the world around us.

## Diamond Creek 10th Apr 1855

My dear Sir,

I duly received your kind letter announcing the deaths of your son (John died 9 Jan 1854 aged 2yrs 11mths) and brother (William died 20 Feb 1854) I sincerely sympathise with you in your seven bereavements. All domestic ties and family connections, however endeared, are often abruptly broken by death and be they ever so long enjoyed they are but of short duration; experience teaches us this sad lesson... I received two Advertisers and one Courier from you, for which I sincerely thank you. We seldom see any paper from home and when we do they are always read with great pleasure. – My long delay in writing you arises from no forgetfulness of you or abatement of former friendship; but different circumstances afford not such favourable opportunities for writing. – I cannot advise Hugh Shaw to come to this country. I have no doubt his family with steadiness would do well, but Hugh himself is too old, and not fitted I think to endure the hardships incidental to every new comer who has to work his way himself. Donald Smith (Farquhar Duhallow's son) came to this colony some time since with a large family as emigrants, that is with passage money paid by Government. Such passengers are provided for here, rations and all free, in the Emigrants' Depot for some time till they find employment,

if unwell they are allowed to remain till they get well with rations free. As soon as he landed, those of his family fit for service were readily employed. One of his girls went to the bush for £36 a year, the others were engaged in and about Melbourne, but I don't know what wages they had, but I guess not quite so high as the above...

He himself was not quite well and remained with his wife and a few of his family not fit for service in the Depot for four or five months. He has left the Depot and is living in Melbourne since, chiefly supported by his family. He is doing something at present I believe breaking stones. His eldest daughter died lately very suddenly, she was found dead in her bed (inquest for a Margaret SMITH aged 23 held 1855, cause, found dead suffocated). There is no provision made for those who pay their passage themselves when they land here. There is therefore much distress among that class before they find employment, as they are generally possessed of little or no money when they land. I have been so particular with D. Smith's circumstances because Shaw's case is very similar. If Shaw is determined to come he should by all means avail himself of a free passage and make up his mind to engage in any work he is at all fit for when he lands here. With the support of his family he might get on: but I do not advise him to come...

Now a slight glance at our own doings. We have been all in good health since I wrote you last and spend the most of our time here making a pretty large garden, enclosing a small cultivation paddock. We have a good many potatoes this season but we sowed no wheat. About seven months ago a rush of diggers came round us but gold was found exactly at the time and soon the rush was over but a few parties came to settle on the Creek behind us four miles off when gold was found in small quantities...

The place where we worked was away only three miles. We were therefore able to go in the morning and return at night. We continued going about three weeks and made very good wages, better than what we could do any where else. But the water failed and we were obliged to give them up. Rain has not come since but when it comes we intend to return to them and given them a further trial... About the end of Dec there was an outbreak among the diggers at Ballarat; All the Military in the colony and police force available was called there to quell the insurrection. Several were killed on both sides and several of the diggers made prisoners who have since been tried for high treason, but they were all acquitted. All are at peace at present, but this colony is not in a very settled or prosperous state. The land question and proper management of the gold fields which occupy the consideration

of Government at present are two questions of most vital importance to the colony, on the proper settlement of which depends much of its future prosperity. I cannot give you an idea of the laws regulating the occupation of Crown land – they are long and intricate...

The price of land has come down greatly, however it sells too high for the poor man yet. All Crown lands are sold by Auction. The lowest upset price is £1 per acre which up to several pounds if good agricultural land... I must still repeat the sad truth that I have not heard any sermon preached since I wrote you last but this does not arise from utter indifference to gospel ordinances. If there was a Presbyterian Minister within an available distance I would go to hear him and consider it a great privilege to have such a blessing. But our lot in this respect is the lot of many in this country and I admit and feel the danger of sinking into utter unconcern as to all religion, but I humbly hope that through the mercy of God I shall be preserved from such painful and fatal indifference.



# THE DIARY OF JOHN WILLIAM MACGILLIVRAY

1882 - 1884

The Clan Journal reproduced some items from John's diary in 2011. Here are a few more selected entries that bring us up to the final words on 31 December 1884. As mentioned in 2011, this diary mostly chronicles every-day events and many are not monumental, diaries such as these provide us with 'first hand' knowledge about the times and rhythms of life over 100 years ago.

John was born in 1853, the son of John MacGillivray and Williamina Paton, nee Gray. His father, a naturalist and son of the eminent British ornithologist William MacGillivray, was naturalist on the surveying voyage of HMS Rattlesnake which left England for Australia in December 1846.

John and his wife Mary had several children: the eldest, William Henry (Harry) was born in 1873, Hannah (died prior to 1882), Walter (died September 1882), Minnie, Bessie, and Elsie who was born in June 1883.

When the diary begins on 1 January 1882, he was employed by the Australian Joint Stock Bank in George Street, Sydney, until poor health forced him to resign. After a period spent living in the country, he returned to Sydney and was given a job at the Australian Museum by E.P.Ramsay, who had known his father.

During the three years covered by the diary the family lived mainly at

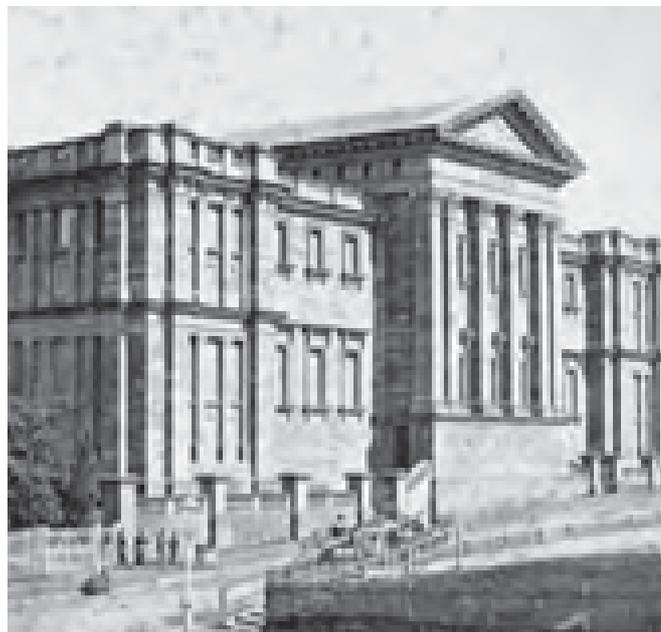


*John William worked at this bank as a clerk before moving to the country, (now inner city) to recover from an illness.*

*Glass plate negative, full plate, 'Australian Joint Stock Bank, Sydney, N.S.W.'; Henry King, Sydney, Australia, c. 1880-1900. Collection: Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, Australia.*

Petersham and Summer Hill in Sydney and at Murrumbatemann, near Yass, NSW.

The diary contains detailed daily entries of the duties he performed at work, the friends and relatives he visited, letters sent and received, the state of his health, the weather. He records his search for accommodation for his family mainly in Sydney's inner west; the illness and subsequent death of his son Walter; items purchased; significant events of the time. The diary has an index, and a typescript transcription. There are a few loose pages of manuscript notes made at a later date, presumably by a descendant of John William MacGillivray.



*After a time spent in the country on a small farm, John was given a job by Mr Ramsay, Curator, Australian Museum. Mr Ramsay knew John's father.*

*Barnet Wing of the Australian Museum on College Street. Collection: Small Picture File, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, Australia.*

## 1882 AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

### Wednesday 30th.

Commenced to rain about 9.30 this morning but cleared off again early in the day. Assisted Mr Allpress for a while and spent about an hour in the cellar. All in all a busy day. The letters were ready for copying about 3.30 and Offord and I left in time to catch the 5 o'clock train. Mary went in to see Walter today and when I arrived home she had only just returned. I noticed she had been crying and she said she had been quite upset at finding Walter much worse than she expected. His body is much swollen and the poor little fellow was not sitting up but lying down in bed and hot water was kept at his feet. She was very much affected at finding him in such a state, but the nurse told her the Dr said he is in no immediate danger.

### Sunday 3rd.

Went as usual to see Walter this afternoon. Found him very low and his face and body a good deal swollen and he would not take much notice of anything. Both hands were bandaged up. He laid very still the whole time but I got an occasional laugh out of him.

Continued on page 28.

# RINGWOOD HIGHLAND GAMES

*Ted Foster getting ready for the march of the clans*



*Section of the mass bands*





*Some of the clan members at the tent following the official opening of the games.*



*The Ringwood Highland Pipe band was part of the mass bands' at the opening ceremony.*

*See article on page 33.*

Monday 4th.

Mary was ill last night, and has been obliged to remain in bed all day. The shock she received on Wednesday through finding Walter so bad was no doubt the cause of the illness.

Mrs Wilson has been very kind remaining with her nearly all day and doing all that was necessary. The children have also been very good.

Missed the train this morning and went in the 8.20. Went up to the mint with Mr. Allpress with several parcels of gold. WE also went up after dinner with a cab and brought away 17.000 sovereigns.

A large fire broke out early yesterday morning in Mitchell & Cos wholesale grocers and wine & spirit merchants. Damage estimated at 20,000 pounds.

Two men committed a robbery at the Pitt St branch bank of A'Asia. They took a tray containing about 271 pounds in half sovereigns. Although the robbery was effected during business hours, the men succeeded in getting away.

Left about 5.45 and caught the 6.15 train. Found Mary rather weak but doing well, she finds bed very tiresome. I sent a letter to the old people as I thought they would be anxious to hear about Walter and I also told them about Mary's illness but gave them to understand there was no occasion for alarm.

Friday 8th.

We went to bed rather early last night as Mary was not well and about half past ten I was awakened by a knocking at the door and on looking out of the window I saw a cab standing in the front. I at once thought of little Walter. On going downstairs I found the Sister Superior from the Childrens Hospital, she said Walter was much worse and that Dropsy had set in and there was very little hope of his rallying.

We immediately started off and reached the hospital a little after 11. The nurse told me they had tried to send a telegram in the evening but it was too late. I found the dear little boy quite unconscious and it did not require a doctor to tell he could not live long. His eyes were rolling about and his breathing was very irregular but he did not move a long, and the nurse said he was not suffering on account of being unconscious. The poor little fellows stomach was greatly swollen and when I saw the state he was in I prayed God to take him as I knew he could not live long. It was a hard trial for me to sit there, the

Continued...

only relation watching his little life passing away. For five hours I sat there watching his face and only left my post once for a few minutes and at 23 minutes past 4 this morning he passed quietly away to be a bright little angel above. I was very glad that I was there at the last and felt very grateful to the nurse who had gone to a great deal of trouble to give me that comfort. Two nurses were sitting up all night and they laid him out and I went with them when they took him to the little Mortuary where they place the children who die there. The nurses were very kind to me and brought me up some tea and something to eat twice, but I did not want anything. A little after daylight I started and walked home. Mary had not slept all night and was not surprised when I told her all. I left soon after and went into Sydney to catch Forrester before he started for business. I have had a hard day as I had all the arrangements to make. I went back to the Glebe and saw the Lady Superintendant arranging with her to let the funeral start from there as I thought it would upset Mary too much to have the body brought home I then went to Stewart the Undertakers and arranged with him to have a coach at the hospital at 8.15 tomorrow morning. I also went to the bank and got some money. I also went to my Uncles and told him. Afterwards I went to Cliftons and Mrs Clifton agreed to meet us at the station. When I left there I met Forrester and we went to my Uncles together and told him what arrangements I had made. I did not doubt that he would like to accompany me to the grave but he said it would be inconvenient for him to do so and with a full and sorrowful heart I left. Not a soul in the house spoke a sympathising word to me and I felt it very hard indeed. When I reached home I found Mrs. Dooley there and she said she would also go to the station in the morning. Dooley was away and would be all night or he would have come. Mrs. Wilson kindly offered to go with me to the Glebe or else I should have to go alone from there to the Station, as I had not asked Mrs. Clifton to meet me there as I fully expected my Uncle would go with me.

## ENTRIES FROM 1884

### Saturday 12th.

After dinner went to the bank and saw Griffin , he did not give me such a warm reception this time, and appears to think I have told Mr Allpress some of the things he said about him. Met Bob at 4.30. We visited the Technological Museum where I saw Dick Barnes. Afterwards we visited the Wax Works then had tea at the Coffee Palace. Walked about till nearly 10 and I was very tired.

Saturday 10th.

Received letter from the Secretary, Museum, informing me officially of my appointment, and asking me to go down for a few days next week if I have spare time, as he wishes me to assist him in the library. Also received letter from Bob Smith appointing to meet me at 7.30 tomorrow at the Newtown station. We were very busy all day and I found plenty to occupy my time. Not very well the last few days. More rain this afternoon.

Saturday 31st.

Received a cheque for 8 pounds 10 shillings this morning being amount of salary due today. Have almost finished with the frogs, but there are some books to be looked through which will probably employ me on Monday and then there will most likely be something else as Mr Ramsay expected to be ready for me by the end of the month. Received letter from Bob, he is sinking a large tank which will come to 17 pounds. Coughed a good deal this afternoon and took some balsom of aniseed which relieved me. Made out all the bills, finished a little before 12.

Friday 6th.

Have been in great pain all day, and could not get ease except when sitting down. Spent a great portion of the day in writing and I was glad of it. Searched through Mr Rattes room and found bottles of frogs.

Saturday 16th.

Great day for Australia as this evening Beach, an Australian is Champion oarsman of the world, having defeated Hanlan by about 5 lengths. The race took place on the Parramatta River Champion course, and was witnessed by more people than ever witnessed a race there before. I walked over to Fivedock, One Allans Wharf and saw the race as the men were nearing the winning post. I had never witnessed a Champion Race and had no idea so many people would be there. The point I went to was the place where all the buses, cabs and other vehicles brought their loads from Sydney and other places and where all the foot passengers went, it being the nearest point from Croydon Station. Anyone not present could form no idea of the immense crowd assembled and besides the river was crowded with steamers and smaller vessels, one of the steamers being the large coaster the "Tomki". Met Mr Allpress and a friend there and we walked as far as the Parramatta Road on the way home. Was very tired.

Friday 29th.

Our salaries were paid this morning as the Secretary will be away tomorrow. Some time ago Mr Ramsay gave me a large case for the purpose of locking our firewood in it, as someone steals it at night. I had bought it home today, put a lot of firewood in it and also some boards to make a bench for washing. Called at Mr Butlers and paid 4 pounds on account, this makes 19 pounds paid off our furniture, being more than half. Hope to have it all paid off in 4 months.

Tuesday 2nd.

No tickets again this morning and this evening the ticket collector in the train noticed my old one and asked me to get a new one this evening, as he says there is now a supply. Bottled some frogs for the meeting today, and was busy assisting to prepare the room. Might have left earlier but waited till the others went. Sent letter and papers to T Jones.

Monday 8th.

Did not feel very strong today. Archbishop Moran, the new Roman Catholic Archbishop landed today, a large procession of streamers accompanied him from Watsons Bay, and at the Circular Quay he was met by the different Catholic Societies etc. The procession went from there to St Marys Cathedral, where some thousands of people had assembled and where the bells were ringing and plenty of bunting was displayed.

Friday 19th.

Not very busy today, did not feel very well. Have had no rum and milk all the week. Sent letter to J Clifton telling him that I will try and get a Half Holiday on Tuesday and pay them a visit. Mr Ramsay has decided to leave for Wellington with Baron Maclay on Wednesday next.

Thursday 4th.

A better day than yesterday. Mr Ramsay and Mr Sinclair confirmed my appointment. The salary will be only 10 pounds per month instead of 13 pounds as not, but I consider I am very fortunate and ought to be very thankful to Mr Ramsay. And besides this month will finish paying for the furniture, so that in one sense we will be as well off, as I have been paying 4 pounds a month. If only my health keeps up we will do very well, and I am in the hopes the Tonic will do me good. Received letter from T Jones, they have not yet received the one I sent on Monday.

Wednesday 31st.

The last entry for the year and the last page of the book. Twelve months ago I did not expect to see the end of this year, but none of us can tell what is before us. I have gone through a good deal of pain and anxiety during the last 12 months. This year however I will not have to worry myself about employment, as I am settled at the Museum for at least 12 months, thanks to the goodness of Mr Ramsay, who seems to be always thinking of something for my benefit. Today I have also completed paying for the furniture. so that will not have to go into next years expenses. Called on Dr O'Reilly and had a long interview with him. He examined me thoroughly and says that both my lungs are affected at the apex or top and they are both a good deal consolidated or hardened. He says the left lung shows signs of breaking down although at present he cannot detect any cavity. He says he will not promise to cure me but will see what he can do. I asked him if I am in any immediate danger as I have such curious feelings sometimes, but he said he does not think so, the only danger would be of my breaking an artery during a fit of coughing, but as my cough is not severe he does not anticipate such a thing happening. I am very glad I went to him as I have every confidence in his skill, and feel that he will do me good, and it is satisfactory to know that I am not in any immediate danger. So in saying Goodbye to the old Year I will hope that the New Year will give me new strength.

The diary of John William MacGillivray  
1882 - 1884

State Library of New South Wales  
Call No. MLMSS 6186

# RINGWOOD HIGHLAND GAMES

ANN BROWN

How recently have you been immersed in Scottish culture? Well on March 29 2015 at the Ringwood Highland Games I was virtually drenched in Scottish culture! It was an occasion to bring all the Scottish groups together with the community and to celebrate the traditions and heritage of Scotland in a Highland Gathering. There were massed pipe bands, pipe band performances, Scottish country dancing, a Highland dancing premiership, haggis hurling, Scottish martial arts and sword play, among other activities as well as stalls selling Scottish and local goods.

The highlight was the official Opening of the Games at 1.30pm. It was fascinating to watch the ceremony and to see the marching bands give a formal salute. I also enjoyed seeing how deftly the drummers twirled their drumsticks and faultlessly beat out rhythms while marching in step and executing complicated group formations.

The bagpipes accompanying the drums were also remarkable. I find that the drone bellowing underneath the melody can be magnetic because it can draw people together enabling souls to connect with a love of Scotland and to engage in the very deep feelings that are evoked by the melody which is played above. Even without the words, the tunes in themselves tell stories of comradeship and sadness yet despite the suffering and the despair

that has been endured, the music may at times also carry a profound sense of encouragement and hope.

Visiting the clan tents was an optimal way to get an overall view of the different clans. Information abounded concerning the original clan locations in Scotland and their tartans and mottos.

For example, I was surprised to learn an interesting fact about the mother of the Australian Saint Mary MacKillop. Flora McDonald was the maiden name of Saint Mary MacKillop's mother. She was not the Flora MacDonald, 1722-80 who assisted Bonnie Prince Charlie, but a McDonald nevertheless.

Inside the tents there were charts, posters, books and brochures available for perusal and the clan representatives were willing to answer any questions.

I recommend visiting the Clan MacGillivray tent, because David and Heather always give a warm welcome and Heather, the archivist of Clan MacGillivray Society Australia is happy to discuss the clan genealogy.

The 2016 Ringwood Highland Games will be held at Jubilee Park, Ringwood on Sunday April 3. Be sure not to miss this event.

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ANN BROWN

# CELEBRATIONS, MILESTONES & SNIPPETS

## CULLODEN BATTLEFIELD REVIEW

The first major review of the Culloden Battlefield conservation area in 47 years has commenced.

Fought on 16 April 1746, Prince Charles Edward Stuart and his Jacobite force were defeated by a government army led by the Duke of Cumberland.

The conservation area was first designated in 1968 and the Highland Council will carry out a six week-long consultation as part of the review from 23 March. Planning committee chairman Thomas Prag said: "The review is important and it has been in progress for some time now."

How people approach the battlefield and how they feel about it when they are there is important, and hopefully the consultation will address that.

"Everyone will have the opportunity to have their say on the proposals prior to designation of the new conservation area which must be formally notified to Scottish government ministers."

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/download/966/proposed\\_culloden\\_muir\\_conservation\\_area\\_public\\_consultation](http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/download/966/proposed_culloden_muir_conservation_area_public_consultation)

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-31763327>



*Image courtesy Royal Historical Society of Queensland, about 1916.*

## TROOP SHIP CLAN MACGILLIVRAY

Over the past ten years the Journal has published some pictures of the ship Clan MacGillivray. In February 1915 the ship was requisitioned by the Australian Government as a troop transport. In the landing at Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula, the Clan MacGillivray led the four transports ships filled with troops and was the first steamer to discharge troops.

This latest picture of the Clan MacGillivray troopship shows family members farewelling troops leaving Pinkenba wharf on board A46 in about 1916. On the voyage a member of the 3rd reinforcements of the 41st battalion produced a magazine 'MacGillivray Magster'. The ship had been launched in June 1911 and completed by Sir WG Armstrong, Whitworth & Co. Ltd, at Newcastle-on-Tyne for Clan Line Steamers.

## CELEBRATIONS, MILESTONES & SNIPPETS



*Loch Ard Peacock, said to have been salvaged from the Loch Ard by Charles MacGillivray. Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum, Warrnambool, Victoria.*

### THE PEACOCK & THE MACGILLIVRAY THE LOCH ARD SHIPWRECK

One of the most unlikely pieces of cargo to have survived the shipwreck was a Minton porcelain peacock - one of only nine in the world. The peacock was destined for the Melbourne International Exhibition in 1880. Thankfully, it was well packed which gave it adequate protection during the violent storm which battered the stricken Loch Ard.

The late Jean MacKenzie, author of the booklet, *The Peacock from the Sea*, claimed the sculpture was carried up the steep cliffs of Loch Ard Gorge by her grandfather Charles MacGillivray.

Today, the Minton peacock can be seen at the Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum in Warrnambool. From Australia's most dramatic shipwreck it has become Australia's most valuable shipwreck artefact and is one of very few 'objects' on the Victorian State Heritage Register. Recently revalued at over \$4 million dollars, this priceless piece is a must see during your visit to Warrnambool and journey along the Great Ocean Road.

### THE LOCH ARD'S FINAL VOYAGE

The Loch Ard left England on March 2, 1878, under the command of Captain Gibbs. The ship carried a general cargo which reflected the affluence of Melbourne at the time.

At 3am on June 1, 1878, Captain Gibbs was expecting to see land and the passengers were excited to view their new homeland in the early morning. But Loch Ard was running into a fog which greatly reduced visibility. Captain Gibbs was becoming anxious as there was no sign of land or the Cape Otway lighthouse. At 4am the fog lifted. The sheer cliffs of Victoria's west coast came into view, and Captain Gibbs realised that the ship was much closer to them

## CELEBRATIONS, MILESTONES & SNIPPETS

than expected. He ordered as much sail to be set as time would permit to try to steer the boat out to sea. On coming head on into the wind, the ship lost momentum, the sails fell limp and Loch Ard's bow swung back. Gibbs then ordered the anchors to be released.

The anchors sank some 50 fathoms - but did not hold. By this time Loch Ard was among the breakers, and the tall cliffs of Mutton Bird Island. Just half a mile from the coast, the ship's bow was suddenly pulled around by the anchor. The captain tried to tack out to sea, but the ship struck a reef running out from Mutton Bird Island. It took time to free the lifeboats and when one was finally launched, it crashed into the side of Loch Ard and capsized.

Tom Pearce, who had launched the boat, managed to cling to its overturned hull and shelter beneath it. He then swam to shore, bruised and dazed and found a cave in which to shelter. Some of the crew stayed below deck to shelter from the falling rigging but drowned when the ship slipped into deeper water.

Eva Carmichael had raced onto deck to find out what was happening only to be confronted by towering cliffs looming above the stricken ship. She was swept off the ship by a huge wave. She saw Tom Pearce on the beach and attracted his attention. He dived in and dragged her to shore. The two shipwreck survivors



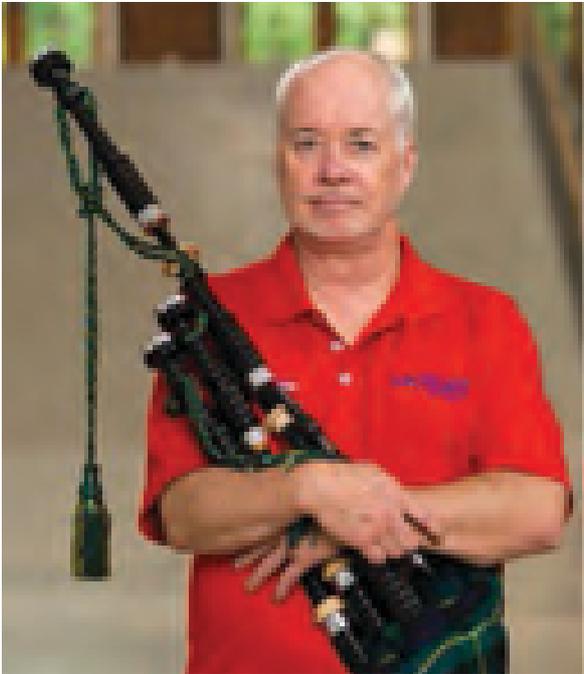
*Tom Pearce received a gold medal and £1000 cheque from the Victorian Government for his bravery in rescuing Eva Carmichael.*

were taken to Glenample Station to recover. Everyone followed the story of Tom Pearce and Eva Carmichael with great interest and were disappointed when the two went their separate ways.

Ten days after the Loch Ard tragedy, salvage rights to the wreck were sold at auction for £2,120. Cargo valued at £3,000 was salvaged and placed on the beach, but most washed back into the sea when another storm developed.

FURTHER INFORMATION:  
<http://www.flagstaffhill.com/history-queries/wreck-loch-ard/>

## CELEBRATIONS, MILESTONES & SNIPPETS



*Renowned piper Jim McGillivray is making pipes from specifications taken directly from 19th century bagpipes.*

### RENOWNED PIPER

WHAT'S OLD IS NEW: MCGILLIVRAY LAUNCHES "VICTORIAN" LINE OF PIPES MADE TO ORIGINAL SPECS

Capitalizing on the appeal of vintage pipes and modern technology, McGillivray Piping has launched a "Victorian" line of three instruments, each manufactured by a separate pipe-maker from specifications taken directly from 19th century bagpipes.

Renowned piper Jim McGillivray, proprietor of McGillivray Piping Inc., has been working with Dunbar Bagpipe Makers of St. Catharines, Ontario; Thomas Pipe Works, also of St. Catharines; and David Naill & Co. of England, for the last



*Jim was inspired to develop the pipes after great interest in the vintage instruments he specialized refurbishing.*

two years to create reproductions of drones by Duncan MacDougall, John MacDougall, and J&R Glen.

He was inspired to develop the pipes after numerous requests from pipers interested in securing one of the vintage instruments he specializes in refurbishing, but unable to due to the prices.

"The sets we are reproducing are priced within the budgets of most pipers, while the original vintage instruments could be three or four times that value," McGillivray said in a statement. Thomas Doucet is reproducing a set of cocuswood and ivory pipes made by J&R Glen in Edinburgh around

## CELEBRATIONS, MILESTONES & SNIPPETS

1880, that he is calling “The Edinburgh.” Made in blackwood with holly wood mounts, at \$2,050 the pipes are the least expensive in the range. Dunbar is making a reproduction of a set of silver and ivory Duncan MacDougall pipes, also from around 1880, and stamped “Dn MacDougall, Breadalbane,” and has named the instrument The Breadalbane with a price ranging from \$2,450 to \$3,195, depending on ornamentation. “The Perth” model at \$2,450 without bag and chanter is being made by Naill, and is a reproduction of a set of MacDougall pipes from the 1850s, likely made by John MacDougall. The major change from the instrument is a modernized bass drone section that had shrunk over 150 years.

“Anyone who has been on my vintage website can tell I love the history, the aesthetics and the tonal beauty of old pipes,” McGillivray said. “For me this is as much fun as it is business. It’s creating something musical that isn’t actually notes on a page. The philosophy of my business has always been to do what I love to do, so this line of reproductions simply brings another dimension to my love of vintage pipes.”

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<https://www.pipesdrums.com/article/What-s-old-is-new-McGillivray-launches-Victorian-line-of-pipes-made-to-original-specs/>

### PYRAMID CALEDONIAN SOCIETY HONOURS PAST CHIEF

Pyramid Hill Advertiser, Feb 2 1923

The Advertiser reported...

Past-Chief Malcolm McGillivray was entertained by the Pyramid Hill Caledonian Society last Friday evening, the event being arranged as means to express the members’ appreciation of his tactful and equitable conducting of the office of Chief during the three first years of the society’s existence, a period during which it has flourished and set a high standard in its dealings with the public and among its members. The society’s standing, taken by itself, is testimony to the ability exercised in its government but the recognition of this was desirable and thus the gathering was held.

It was a ‘guid Scotch nicht’ but by no means a wild Hielan’ one.

Chief Andrew Blow presided and proposed the first toast to “The King,” He then gave a toast to “The Guest,” and said Past Chief Malcolm McGillivray had given a great amount of time and work to the society during its three years of existence. It would take someone with a great “gift of the gab” to give an idea of all he had done.

## CELEBRATIONS, MILESTONES & SNIPPETS



*Powder horn with silver thistle design presented to Malcolm McGillivray in 1923. The horn was passed down to the Editor by Malcolm's daughter, Isabel Wilson (dec). It is a treasured part of Malcom's collection that includes his kilt, made in Glasgow in 1929.*

During that time the Society had never looked back and the way it had been kept before the public, with haggis suppers, concerts and sports was to the credit of the Past Chief.

The concerts had never been equaled outside of Melbourne and had never been beaten in Melbourne, their dancers could hold their own wherever they went, a fact due to the teaching of the guest had set such a high standard his successor, would have a hard task in keeping in sight the goal he so clearly held in view. The speaker hoped that, with Mr. McGillivray's advice and help he would still keep the Society advancing.

The Chief then presented to Mr. McGillivray a handsome powder horn, heavily mounted with silver worked in a

thistle design, as a mark of appreciation of his services in the Society.

*Thanks to Margaret Williamson from the Pyramid Hill Historical Society for her assistance with this article.*

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**EUAN MCGILLIVRAY**

## CELEBRATIONS, MILESTONES & SNIPPETS

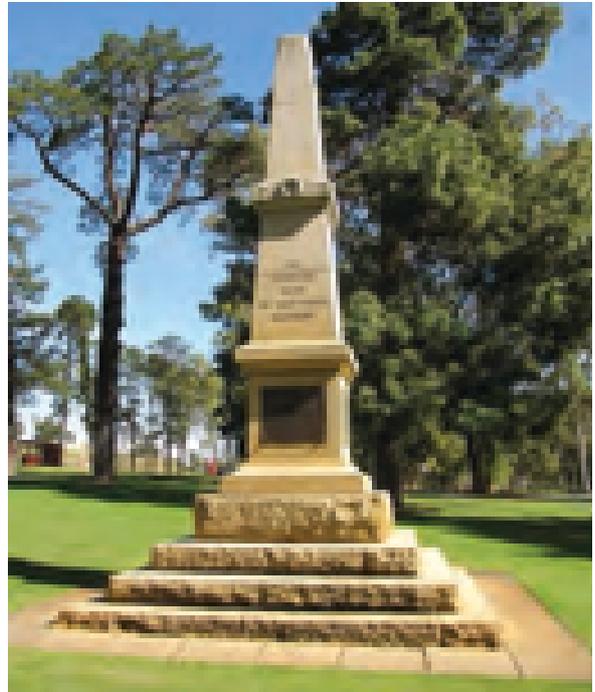


*Sister and brother Emma and Liam Stapleton lead the procession at the start and end of Mass, Emmanuel College, Warrnambool, March 2015*

### **NOVICE PIPER AWARD 2014**

The winner of the award was Emma Stapleton from Warrnambool. Emma is a student at Emmanuel College and was mentioned in the College newsletter regarding the opening Mass in March 2015.

The Principal of Emmanuel College, Warrnambool, Peter Morgan described the “highlight of the Mass for me was having brother and sister Emma and Liam Stapleton lead the procession at the start and end of Mass. Both are accomplished bag-pipers and their piping set the scene for our special occasion”.



### **COMBINED CLANS PICNIC**

Perth, 26 April 2015

We really cracked it for a great day, bright sunshine and about mid 20s – perfect I’d say! The picnic was held on the lawn area behind the Light Horse Memorial just off Fraser Drive, Kings Park.

The calling of the Clans revealed about 13 clans, although I may have missed a couple. The total attendance was about 80. The “gang of seven” represented the Clan MacGillivray – Roma Wilson, Elaine Edwards, Bob Bracey, Del and Neville Smith, Lynne and myself. The Clan Munroe came and sat with us in the shade while the piper played his repertoire and Shirley sang some traditional airs.

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**ROY MANCHESTER**

### LEILA JANE MCGILLIVRAY 1923 -2014



Leila Jane McGillivray was born Leila Jane Scott in the Bomaderry/Berry Municipality of NSW on the 4th of January, 1923. Her parents were married in 1913 at Coolamon, NSW, and she had two older brothers, Cecil and James.

Her father, Alexander, was a railway clerk. They moved to Wollongong shortly after her birth and Leila attended Wollongong Public School, and then The Domestic Science School in Wollongong, where she concentrated on "Commercial Work" which included Book Keeping, Business Principles, Shorthand and Typing.

At the start of the second World War, Leila attained many Certificates in first aid and nursing, and worked as a dental nurse at The Dental Hospital of Sydney from February 1940 till December 1943. She continued doing voluntary nursing work with returned servicemen until the end of the war. At this stage Leila was living with her mother in the Sydney suburb of Gordon. After the war she began working as the Book Keeper for the small manufacturing company, Propert and Co.

While on holiday with a girl friend at Coolangatta, she met her future husband Peter, who was working in Brisbane, and also enjoying the sand and surf at Coolangatta. They married at Turramurra in Sydney on the 23rd of August, 1952, and set up house in Brisbane. Peter's parents also lived across a gully in Gordon. Interestingly, the Certificate of Marriage states that Peter was a mere Technical Representative, while Leila was a Company Director.

Three children followed, Alex and Jane both born in Brisbane, and after a transfer back to Head Office in Melbourne, John was born.

Apart from a three year sojourn in London for Peter's work, Leila remained living in Melbourne the rest of her life. Leila was a great cook and especially loved to preserve fruits and vegetables. Christmas pudding with brandy sauce,

## SORAIDH

tins of Anzac biscuits and shortbread – were also among her specialties.

Her son John unfortunately was disabled, and Leila spent a very great proportion of her life in various fund raising and charitable operations devoted to furthering the care of John and the various schools and organisations where he resided. Leila was instrumental in starting and managing very successful Opportunity Shops in Mont Albert and Hawthorn for Kindilan, and was a Board Member of Kindilan for a very long period of her life.

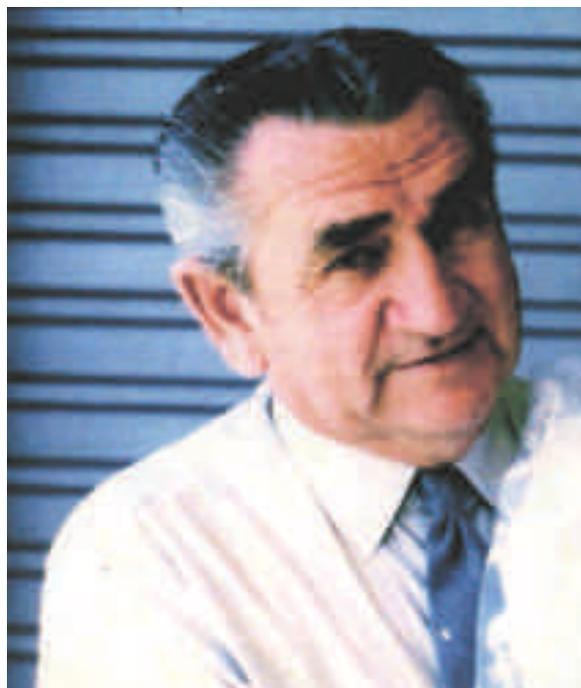
As most readers of this Journal will know, Leila was also a very strong and willing supporter of Peter in his role with The Clan McGillivray Society, and took great delight in attending the various Clan activities around Australia.

Leila sadly passed away at Box Hill in June 2014.

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ALEX MCGILLIVRAY

## KENNETH MCGILVRAY 1926 -2014



Dad was born in 1926. He was the youngest of 3 sons and seven sisters. The family was raised on a dairy farm at Killabakh Creek, Wingham, NSW. He worked on the farm until he was 18 or 19 and then left for the bright lights of Sydney. He loved Sydney and this is where he met his future wife. Together they had four children. Not long after I was born he contracted Polio and was in isolation for well over a year.

Family has always been the most important thing in his life. He and mum instilled in all of us the need to look after each other. Respect and honesty were his by-words and he expected us to follow suit. He died on 21st May, 2014.

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CAROL HARRISON

## FLORENCE LEHMAN 1913 – 2014



Flo was born in the Ouyen, (Victoria) hospital on the 11th July 1913 to Sarah and August Jones who lived at Galah where she started school before we moved onto a farm at Bronzewing.

She had 3 sisters, Eva, Annie and Vera and 2 brothers Arthur and Norman; fourteen grandchildren – twenty-nine great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

Flo moved to Mildura in the 1920s where her mother opened a guest house in Lime Avenue. She was kept busy working as a waitress while her sister Eva did all the cooking. One of her jobs was to take the morning and afternoon tea down to the workers building the first bridge across the Murray River, replacing

the old punt - she remembers the river being so low that she could walk across it.

In 1931 she married Arch McGillivray. He was a baker in Red Cliffs and they bought block 449 at Sunny Cliffs. The block was 18 acres growing mainly sultana grapes.

Flo and Arch had four children, Donald, Andrew, Jean and David. When Arch died she married Sydney Lehman, having one child Valerie Joy. They later sold block 449 and bought block 327.

At times life was very hard, especially during the great depression, she worked as hard as any man on the block. At picking and pruning time it was all hands on deck and every one worked hard, at least 12 hours a day and sometimes more, six days a week - it was hot and dirty work.

Flo taught Sunday school at the Presbyterian Church for many years and was a long serving President of Senior Citizens club and a member Laurel Club in Red Cliffs. In 1970 owing to Syd's ill health they sold the block and moved to Nursery Ridge before moving to Bert Thomas Flats.

Mum passed away on the 27th November 2014 at 101 years of age.

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DAVID MCGILLIVRAY

# SORAIDH

## MARGERY SHIRLEY SULLIVAN NEE BOYD 1934 -2014



Margery was the second child and daughter of Elsie Linda McKnight and Donald Alexander Boyd, born June 6, 1934. Her paternal grandmother was Mary Jane McGillivray. Margery was born at Foster, Victoria. The family lived on her mother's family farm at Stony Creek near Foster. Her father was posted to Sale at the outbreak of WWII and the young family moved there. Apparently it was quite a change for country kids as they had a house with electricity. Sadly her mother's sister Alice died in childbirth in 1940 and one of her sons also went to live with them.

At the end of the war in 1946 their father was posted to Japan with the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces (BCOF) and the young family followed the next year. They sailed on

the MV Duntroon in August 1947 to their new home in Kure, Japan. Margery went to school, went to dances, played tennis, swam, sang in the church choir, her mother played the organ for church and choir and Margery and was instrumental in starting up a Junior YWCA at school. She was chosen to attend an International Moral Leadership Course on Miya Jima Island. She met her future husband on a train on one of their outings, she was fifteen and he was nineteen. He was with the Australian army and on leave from Korea. The family left Japan in November 1950 and returned to Australia.

She worked at HV McKay's Harvester Works in Sunshine until she got married, boarding with an aunt and uncle. Margery and Barry were married in the Presbyterian church in Sunshine in 1952. Their daughter Anne was born at Seymour, Victoria in 1954, son Michael at Ringwood, Victoria in 1956 and daughter Kerrie in Penang, Malaya in 1958, a reflection of where the family was living at the time. They were posted to Malaya in 1957. The family spent a lot of time in New Guinea during the 1960s and then again in the 1970s. In between home was at Ingleburn army base in NSW.

Once her husband left the army they bought their first and only home in Ingleburn, NSW. Margery occupied herself giving piano lessons, knitting, crocheting, patchwork quilts, keeping in

## SORAIDH

EVA (LILY) SIMS  
1920 -2014

contact with her many friends, playing the organ at church and for weddings, volunteering at old government house in Parramatta and enjoying her grandchildren and great grand-children. She passed away after a long battle with cancer on March 24, 2014.

### BARRY SULLIVAN 1930 -2012

Barry Sullivan was born Raymond Sullivan to Henry Keith Sullivan and Jessie Grace Jones on June 11, 1930 at Goulburn, NSW. He ran away from home and joined the army underage and was sent to Korea. This was where he met his future wife Margery. Barry had an illustrious army career from Korea he was sent to Malaya with the expeditionary force then to Vietnam as a military advisor. The family was then stationed in New Guinea. Barry rose through the ranks finishing his career as a Major in the Australian army.

After the army he worked in a number of clerical positions. He enjoyed marching in the ANZAC day parade with his son and his grandsons. A tradition they continue. The love of his life was his wife Margery and he fought very hard to stay alive to look after her but his heart finally gave up. He passed away on October 12, 2012. His ancestors included both first fleet and second fleet convicts, Australian royalty!

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LYNDA COLLIER



Eva Lilian (Lily) Sims was born on the 5th August 1920 at Sea Lake Victoria, to Norman McDonald and Evangeline Wearne. Lily is descended from Catherine McGillivray (Catherine was the granddaughter of Neil and Janet nee Nicholson McGillivray of Breakish, Skye) and Donald Munro. Lily is the GGG granddaughter of Neil and Janet McGillivray of Breakish Skye. Catherine and Donald Munro arrived in Australia on the Hercules in 1853.

Lily was an enthusiastic member and historian for her family. In 2004 she held a large Munro family reunion in White Hills Bendigo, with over 200 family members attending. She loved travelling, keeping in touch with her family and friends, attending church, going shopping and attending all activities in the retirement village. She died on 21st of June, 2014.

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HEATHER MCGILLIVRAY

