



The Clan Matheson Society Australia Newsletter

FROM THE (ACTING) EDITOR

This Newsletter has a story sent in by new member Lyn Torney (thanks, Lyn). It concerns her great grandmother who was born in 1854. Her father was born in Kilmuir, Isle of Skye and operated the Knowsley Hotel about 80km from Bendigo. The story also concerns Lyn's descendants and her siblings' descendants and their lives in early Victoria.

We also have a story from Jan Evans about her trip to Scotland and what she found there. She includes a photo of the Bennetsfield Matheson crypt at Suddie on the Black Isle. The 18th to the 24th Chiefs of the Mathesons belonged to this family from 1759 to 1945. The 19th Chief, in 1746, John Matheson of Bennetsfield was present at the battle of Culloden. The History of the Mathesons (by MacKenzie & Macbain) recounts how he sailed across the Firth from the Black Isle, but by the time he arrived, the battle was decided and he had to hide to avoid being killed by Hanoverian soldiers. The family coat of arms in Jan's picture forms an illustration in the MacKenzie & Macbain book (see Figure).



We have booked a number of seats in the Clan area for the matinee performance of the Edinburgh Tattoo in Sydney on 19 October. While there are no more discount seats available, you can still come along to the Tattoo and see all the action. There is to be a ceilidh (wild Scottish Music and Dancing) in the evening (see page 8) and you would be welcome there.

On May 19th, the day after the Federal Election, we shall hold our Annual May Muster at the Radisson Hotel, William St Melbourne (adjacent to the Flagstaff Gardens). It is close to Flagstaff Station and on several tram lines. We shall begin proceedings with lunch at 12 noon whatever the result to the election. It might be a celebration for you or a commiseration, but we shall enjoy ourselves either way. If you are within striking distance of the Radisson, I'd love to see you there.

Colin Matheson
(Acting) Newsletter Editor
President and Chief's Lieutenant for Australia

Corrections:

In Margaret Harvey's article in the last Newsletter, the information sought was about her great grandfather Robert Matheson born 1831 at Lairg not Robert Lang. His 4th child, Charlotte Teresa Matheson married William Scott so the wedding photo is of Charlotte Teresa Matheson and William Scott not Charlotte Teresa Lang and William Scott.

Thanks, Margaret - Ed

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FEES NOW DUE

For those who have not yet paid their annual fees (\$25 per family—2 adults and children under 18), they are now due. Direct deposit is the preferred method, but cheques, made out to the Clan Matheson Society, can be sent to the Treasurer, Genevieve Ahearne at PO Box 166 Rye Vic 3941 .

Bank details for online transfer are:

Bendigo Bank (Blackburn South Branch) BSB 633 000,
Account 145 886 719 Clan Matheson account.

Please use as reference your postcode and as much of your full name as possible to unequivocally identify you—thanks.

CLAN MATHESON
SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT FLAGSTAFF GARDENS 17/02/2019

Present Colin, Mary, Ross, Janet, Brad, Roma.

Apologies - Robert & Helen, Warren, Genevieve, Ross Matheson.

Commenced 1.25pm

Last meeting notes taken as read.

Item arising from notes of last meeting re trailer. Registration has been paid & it will be stored at Janet's house till the time comes for her to move it is then to be transferred to Warren's.

Matheson March Music has been approved by the Chief & we are waiting for it to be taken up by other Clan Branches for use at their meetings. Search YouTube to hear the tune for yourself [see page 8—Ed].

Current cheque payments should be updated to rid us of the need for cheques & two persons needed to sign. Roma will check with Bendigo Bank how to go about this & get details required for this update to an easier system. Also set this up if possible at the time.

Colin wants to find a cheaper alternative for printer cartridges. Brad suggested we check with HotToner.com.au to check their prices.

President's report - Not much because of Christmas. Bundanoon Gathering can we attend? Don't think so at this time we don't have a NSW representative. Jeff Freeman may be interested in attending he is very interested in anything Clan etc.

Tattoo Sydney - Brad has spoken to two pubs which are not far from the Tattoo about accommodation. Also spoke to the Scottish Fiddlers about attending and organising the date and attendance. Colin suggested we co-ordinate with another group and join them to make things easier for all. Brad to check about a ceilidh for those interested. Colin said we could have Clan involvement with this ceilidh but he must check further.

Brad is interested in doing a recruitment drive to gain members for the clan mainly through Facebook. There are 16,000 interested who check out these pages.

Book by Mary (unknown) these can be lent out to members to read or Colin can have them scanned to pass on. Also a book of Ian Matheson's about Plockton.

Colin needs stories from our members for the newsletter. So members if you have any stories they need not be long just interesting.

Roma has sold two Polo shirts & two hats from our last mention in the newsletter. Brad to email T shirt styles and designs to Colin and me. Maybe we can sell them at the U.S.A. Gathering. Truckers caps with mesh at the back could be good and could have our logo on the front.

Bobbie Matheson cousin of Abigail has paid her fees and included a donation of \$100. Thank you Bobbie for this donation.

State Library of Victoria made a request from Roma for newsletters from 2015 to the present in digital form so they could be put online via *Trove*. Roma has always sent them newsletters. Someone from the Library will call to check for permission for this to be done.

Meeting was closed at 2.30pm

Roma Jorgenson (Secretary)

My great grandmother Mary Ann Matheson

By Lyn Torney (nee Hollingsworth)



Mary Ann Matheson was born at the Knowsley Hotel, Victoria (30 km E of Bendigo) on the 9th of May 1854, the 5th of 8 children to Donald Munro Matheson (born Kilmuir, Isle of Skye) and Maria Josephine Keogh (born Galway, Ireland). The Knowsley Hotel was built in 1852 and operated by her father Donald. The hotel building still stands today (now a private residence) on the McIvor Highway at the intersection with the Knowsley-Barnadown Road.

An article will feature in a future newsletter with further details on the life of my 2 x great grandfather (D.M. Matheson) and his siblings.



Photo Circa 1860

Mary Ann worked in the hotel business when she became old enough and continued to operate the hotel after her father died in 1877. The hotel was eventually sold in 1881 as part of the estate settlement.

In 1878 Joseph Hollingsworth (born Newport, Essex, England and emigrated to Adelaide in 1856) moved into the district after spending many years working for the Williams family (initially at Gol Gol Station NSW before moving to Coongoola Station QLD in the 1860's). He began managing "Woodpark" at Derrinal in 1879 (a property now under the water of Lake Eppalock, near Bendigo) and Tom Williams began managing an adjoining property "Mount View", both owned by Mr Frank Jenkins (Tom's uncle).

In July 1879 Joseph began courting Mary Ann, and they were married by the Eaglehawk Presbyterian Minister the following year on the 7th of April 1880 in the Knowsley Hotel. Mary Ann and her younger sister Maria, not yet 21, then moved to "Woodpark".

Life involved supporting Joseph tending the orchard and livestock. Mary Ann and Joseph also became parents, welcoming the following children; Henry Ridley (May 1881-Aug 1963), Herbert Sydney (April 1882-Dec 1937), Adelaide Eveline (Dec 1884-Mar 1968), Joseph Victor (July 1887-April 1915) and May Pensee Violet (July 1890- May 1968).

In May 1885 Joseph and Mary Ann left "Woodpark" and moved to the nearby property "Mount View". Part of the property was purchased by Joseph in 1892 and named "Glacier Dale". The property is where I spent my childhood and is still owned by their grandson Ian Hollingsworth.

During the latter part of 1897 Mary Ann was not well and on the 27th of April 1898 she died at "Glacier Dale", aged 43. She is buried in the Heathcote Cemetery in a plot that later included her husband Joseph, sister Maria and son Herbert.

Mary Ann's siblings:**Baby Matheson (1847-1847)**

Date based on an entry by Donald Matheson in the Campaspe Plains Ledger for baby clothes but not recorded by Donald in a hand-written list of his children. This baby is thought to be one of the 2 Matheson children buried in the Old Derrinal Cemetery (Extract from the McIvor Times published on 5 August 1909). ►

Among others buried at the Old Cemetery, near the late Mr Speed's, besides Mr James Fortune, senr., his daughter, and Mr John Fortune and the three men accidentally poisoned on the Langwornor station, were two children of the late Mr D. M. Matheson. Mr

James Francis Matheson (13 Jan 1849-1853)

The exact date of James's death is not known. A family note book refers to a letter dated 11 November 1853 that included notification of a death. He is the 2nd of the 2 children in the Old Derrinal Cemetery.

Alexander (Alick) Matheson (10 Jun 1850-25 Feb 1887)

Alick started working as a bank clerk with the Bank of Victoria in Heathcote. Alick married Susan Becroft in Longwood in 1875. There were no children from this marriage. Susan died in January 1886 and is buried in the Longwood Cemetery. In January 1887 Alick was living at Edi when he became ill, Mary Ann and Joseph visited him as well as his brother Donnie. The following month he died in Collingwood and is buried in the Longwood Cemetery. His Death Certificate records his occupation as Trooper.

**Margaret Munro McDonald [nee Matheson] (13 Sept 1852-15 Dec 1925)**

Margaret married Charles Sturt McDonald in Heathcote on 7 December 1876 and moved to Mooroopna. A portion of the family farm "Ardmona" was sold to a syndicate of farmers and wine growers in 1886, the business later adopting the name Ardmona. Margaret and Charles were the parents of 13 children, losing 2 as infants and 2 sons during WWI. They moved to Gippsland in the early 1900's and both Margaret and Charles are buried in the Warragul Cemetery.

Elizabeth (Bessie) Boyle [nee Matheson] (1 Sept 1856-16 Apr 1929)

Bessie married Michael Boyle on 17 May 1879 in Axedale and they went on to become parents to 10 children, with only one dying as an infant. Michael was a farmer with a property at Axe Creek. This was sold in 1893 and the family moved to Leichardt, near Marong to continue farming. Michael died in 1908 age 57. Three sons served in WWI. Bessie spent her last year living in Bendigo. Bessie and Michael are buried in the Marong Cemetery.

**Donald (Donnie) Munro Matheson (10 Feb 1858-12 Jan 1928)**

Donnie was a general labourer in the Heathcote district, including working on the railway lines and was known to also fossick for gold. Joseph Hollingsworth's notes indicate that he was a regular visitor to the farm and was sometimes employed to help with various jobs including fencing, constructing dams and clearing rabbit burrows. Donnie died in Bendigo and is buried in the White Hills Cemetery in Bendigo.

Maria Josephine (Joey) Matheson (26 Jul 1860-10 Jan 1935)

Joey did not marry and was housekeeper for her sister Mary Ann and Joseph Hollingsworth. She continued to live with the family after Mary Ann's death in 1898. Joey moved to Heathcote in 1926 with Joseph and her nephew Herbert. This occurred following the transfer of the family farm to her nephew Ridley Hollingsworth after his marriage to Ethel May Mundy. Joey is buried in the Heathcote Cemetery.

OUR SCOTTISH TRIP

By JAN EVANS

Hello Fellow Mathesons.

Our branch of the family arrived in Australia in 1853 with Farquhar Matheson who had married Grace McKenzie in Plockton, Scotland, in 1848. Their eldest son George Matheson was born in 1850 in Plockton. George married Margaret Currie in 1880. Kenneth Farquhar Matheson was the eldest surviving son and married Mabel Edith Ison in 1909. They arrived at Binya (about 25km east of Griffith, NSW) from Wycheproof in 1912.

My daughter Karen and I travelled to England, Scotland and Ireland, to “discover” our roots, via Dubai and Portugal. There was supposedly a drought up in the Northern hemisphere, because it hadn’t rained for 2 weeks! But it was all as green as ... well, grass !

Driving ourselves, we managed to navigate ourselves to the town of Rowston (that being my father’s name) in the south of England but found no reference to my father’s family there.



Figure 1 Matheson Family crypt at Suddie near Fortrose on the Black Isle. Coat of arms are those of the Bennetsfield family.

Up to Scottish border where the temperature dramatically dropped 10 degrees and the wind blew a gale! We stopped at every cemetery we could see and of course, eventually found the crypt at Suddie. It is in disrepair but what could you do after all this time? We found lots of Mathesons buried in many cemeteries in our travels. We found one old gentleman who just happened to be at the cemetery, who knew the Matheson Clan as being very well known and in fact, tried to give us directions to a famous area, but we couldn’t get the gist of what he was saying (being Scottish!). In the end he said “I don’t know how you Mathesons ever got to Australia when you can’t understand simple directions here!” We did have a great laugh as we walked away. We took photos of every gravesite that mentioned Matheson, until we thought enough is enough! And wondered with so many in the cemetery, how there were any family members left to emigrate!

was a McCrea) who was impressed that we were Mathesons. Gave us a beaut talk on our ancestors and embellished it a good bit, but it was fun and thrilling to hear such history. Such marvellous restoration. A huge crowd of visitors were at Eilean Donan and a lone piper, which I thought lent atmosphere to the Castle.

While visiting the Castle a group of bomber planes flew very low over the Lake. Apparently, the Air force uses that water area for training in low flying.

Found Eilean Donan, and a guide (I think he



Figure 2 Jan at Eilean Donan Castle



Figure 3 Welcome board at Culloden

At Culloden , we found that a very sad and moving site, and I likened it to Gallipoli.

Although Matheson was not mentioned in the Books listing the Clans there, we were told that the Clan would have fought under the banner of ?McCrea (or McKenzie—I'm not sure if I have remembered rightly.)

We had a great time in Scotland, loved that some schools over there spoke only Gaelic so that children will learn their heritage as much as is being lost. We went to 2 Ceilidh gatherings where they spoke Gaelic (we think) ... held at school halls , the kids played violins, accordion, drums, guitar, pipes, flutes, and also danced. Loved the history and regretted that I didn't hone up on my family history so I could discover more; attended Church twice (hard to find one open!), nobody spoke to us at all in either one, although we were obviously tourists; that was disappointing. We spoke to people but they weren't very forthcoming. Not enough kilts and pipes! Our travel time did not coincide with the Highland Games (a week too early) or the Edinburgh Tattoo. Would love to go again but probably won't get there.

One of the most amazing things for us Aussies was , perhaps, the age of everything , when here in Australia , the oldest building in just 200 or so years. Those buildings were made to last. Wonderful also that there is much preservation happening. They value their heritage.



Figure 4 Jan at Duncraig

The beautiful "family" home at Duncraig, now a luxury B&B, built with ill gotten gains, apparently, by Sir Alexander Matheson, was under restoration when we were there. But we did do a drive in on a very narrow, even by Scottish standards, road. An oncoming vehicle , who should have stopped at a passing area, scraped by us in our rental car.

My daughter, Karen Conlan, as a direct descendant of the Irvin Clan (my mother-in-law being an Irvin) , visiting Drum Castle near Aberdeen, originally the seat of Clan Irvine, was permitted to sign the Family Book and include her ancestry.

Jan Evans Binya, NSW.



Figure 5 Karen signs the visitor's book at Irvine Drum Castle



Clan Matheson Merchandise

Roma Jorgenson
Phone: (03) 59791781
rjorgenson@bigpond.com



Ladies Polo Shirt
Various Styles
Sizes 12 - 16
White, beige
\$25



Men's Polo Shirt
Sizes M - XXXL
Navy, Maroon
\$25



BBQ Apron
Black \$25



Sew on Clan Crest Patches
Blue, Green
\$5 each



Caps Black, Sand \$15 One Size Fits All
Bucket Hats Sand \$15 Sizes S/M or L/XL
Knitted Beanie Navy, Black \$15 One Size Fits All
Polar Fleece Beanie Navy, Black \$15 One Size Fits All



Wall Plaques
Leather/Wood-Look Resin in 3D
Product is of exceptional quality
11" x 14" - \$50



Mugs
White
\$10 each
Drink Bottle
White
\$5
Stubby Holder
Black
\$5



Not Illustrated
Red shopping bags \$5
With Clan Crest
Glasses Cleaners \$3
With Clan Crest



Maps of Matheson sites
Based on Ordnance Survey
With place-names booklet
Small \$5 Laminated \$15
Large \$10 Laminated \$20

Please Note:
Postage is not
included in prices

Dé Tha Dol? - What's doin' ?

Today (ie NOW)—look up the Youtube video of Warren playing 'The March of The Mathesons'

<https://youtu.be/swz4EdDM8no>

Sunday 19 May: Clan Matheson May Muster at the Radisson Hotel, William St, Melbourne. This is adjacent to the Flagstaff Gardens, close to Queen Victoria Market. We begin with lunch at the Hotel (own lunch) at 12. Meeting at 1pm or thereabouts

Sunday 18 August: Clan Matheson AGM (Venue TBA)

17 to 19 October Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. ANZ Stadium, Sydney. 21 of us will be attending as a Clan on 19 October at the matinee session, starting 11am., banner waving. You can still get tickets.

19 October Ceilidh associated with Military Tattoo Venue. (9 of us have so far signed up for the ceilidh. Please let me know (at the email below) if you wish to attend as the organisers want to be sure their venue is large enough if there is to be a large Matheson influx.

Scots on The Rocks
Scottish Country Dancing in the Heart of Sydney

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Chaotic Ceilidh

We run three Chaotic Ceilidhs each year. Featuring music by ARIA Award winning Chris Duncan & Catherine Strutt, it will be a night of energetic and popular dances. Includes supper (BYO alcohol).

Be warned, our ceilidhs sell out very fast, so keep an eye on this site or sign up to our newsletter to stay informed. Tickets are generally released 2 weeks before the Ceilidh and are available online via www.trybooking.com.

Event	Chaotic Ceilidh
Dates	Saturday, 30 March 2019 – SOLD OUT Saturday, 29 June 2019 Saturday, 19 October 2019
Time	8.00 pm – 11.00 pm (ish)
Location	Abraham Mott Hall, Argyle Street, The Rocks
Tickets	\$35 PER PERSON – Tickets go on sale about two weeks before each Ceilidh. Sign up to our newsletter to be notified when tickets for will be on sale.

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Scots on The Rocks is a not for profit organisation dedicated to promoting Scottish Country Dancing in Sydney, Australia.

Contact Us!

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News Archive

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