



The Clan Matheson Society Australia Newsletter

From the (acting) Editor....

In the 6 months since our last Newsletter it has become clear that Covid-19 has not gone away and we shall not be back to normal for many years yet. Indeed, we shall probably find ourselves in a new normal with some level of disease with us permanently. Services will be disrupted by absenteeism much of it at short notice.

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It has taken until now for cultural events, including Scottish ones, to find a way of taking place in socially-responsible ways without spreading disease among us. Although there are many cases each day all over the country, our vaccination levels seem to be reducing the severity of Covid-19 in most cases except vulnerable people. We were able to attend, as a Clan, the Melbourne Highland Games, which took place on a fine, sunny and warm day in March. Even so, there are still people who are vulnerable for one or other reason, who feel uncomfortable in attending what used to be normal gatherings of people. For this reason, we have held our quarterly meetings by Zoom, which has enabled us to meet together in virtual space, safely. These Zoom meetings have the added advantage that we can involve members who live further afield than Melbourne. But they have the disadvantage of being much less sociable than face-to-face meetings. New members are much less likely to join a Zoom meeting than come along to a picnic or a Radisson meal.

Our Chief seen with Royalty recently



One very sharp-eyed member (thank you Brad) noticed this picture of our Chief, Sir Alexander Matheson (l), accompanying Prince Charles (centre) at an Order of The Bath ceremony in May.

Janet Blainey was also very sharp-eyed when watching the recent Thanksgiving Service in St Paul's Cathedral in London for the Royal Platinum Jubilee. She noticed our Chief, Sir Alexander Matheson as a Gentleman Usher in the Royal Household helping Prince Harry and the Duchess of Sussex to their seats. He accompanied them from the Cathedral entrance and along the nave. Sir Alexander is wearing the dress uniform of a Lieutenant Colonel in the Coldstream Guards.



CLAN MATHESON

Summary of Clan meeting held at the Melbourne Highland Games Croydon, Melbourne 20th March 2022

We were able to hold a face-to-face meeting for the first time in a couple of years due to the rebirth of the Ringwood Highland Games as the Melbourne Highland Games. Since they were to be held very soon after we normally conduct our Clan Picnic, the Committee decided to cancel the face-to-face picnic gathering and hold a meeting at the Melbourne Highland Games instead. The Highland Games were held at Eastfield Park, Croydon and were well attended by the public. We had hoped that holding a meeting at a public event would attract members to attend. I am not sure this was the result, but we did attract two new members to join the Society. Warren brought our trailer containing our tent and other display items from Bendigo and our display was adequate. We lack a few items such as a workable display board and some large Matheson-branded materials.

At the meeting, we discussed how the webpage was performing and Mary reported on enquiries from the 'Contact Us' tab on the webpage. These messages go to the secretary.clanmatheson mailbox and several of us now have access and can respond. Most enquiries are about trying to contact relatives or ancestors or about an individual's own genealogy. Our responses are usually to try to be helpful, but there is usually too little information to be useful. So we ask for more information and suggest they join us via the forms downloadable from the website. No-one has yet replied to these overtures. We did receive a complaint about the image on our main webpage of Angus Macmillan, an individual now known to have been the perpetrator of several Gippsland massacres of Gunai people in the 1800s. We have now replaced this image with one of a famous painting by Thomas Faed called 'The Last of The Clan'.

Genevieve Ahearne could not be present but sent her report detailing income of \$90 (comprising three memberships – held over to next year – and a merchandise sale), expenditure of \$231 (for insurance) and a bank balance of \$6714.14. It was agreed that the registration of the trailer should be paid by the Society, rather than by Warren, who currently looks after it.

There was discussion about whether committee meetings should continue to be held by zoom, even though Covid might not prevent face-to-face meetings from now on. General consensus was that online zoom meetings allowed participation by a greater number of people around the country and should be continued in the main. This should build a base of people engaged with the Society. Zoom meetings will not, however, preclude face-to-face meetings and get-togethers from time to time.

There was some discussion about the NZ funding model, involving no membership fees.

Colin reiterated that material for Newsletter articles was always needed. Some commitments to prepare such material have not yet been honoured.

Two new members, Sheena Wright and Pamela Hardwick, both of Croydon, were welcomed to the Society before the meeting.

Mary Molan (secretary)

Family News from Robert and Helen Mathieson of Tatura



After one false start due to COVID in Victoria Laura Mathieson (Daughter of Robert and Helen) married her fiancé Matthew Bradbury on December 17, 2020.

They were married in Echuca at the lovely Radcliffe’s Restaurant. The day was beautiful with sun and laughter. Unfortunately, due to the COVID restrictions not all the initially-invited guests could attend, but all understood this was out of anyone’s control.

The bride’s father and nephew were proudly decked out in Matheson Clan ties and Laura also sported a Clan Matheson garter!

Laura and Matthew are now proud parents to Lily Emma Maree Bradbury who was born on May 24 2021.



Melbourne Highland Games

Eastfield Park Croydon Victoria 20 March 2022

After an uncertain few years caused by a relocation from their traditional Ringwood site and by the Covid pandemic, the Ringwood Highland Games have now become the Melbourne Highland Games. The new venue is in Croydon rather than Ringwood, but still in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne.



Mary and I travelled from Canberra the previous day and stayed at the Dorset Gardens Motel a kilometre or two from the Gathering site. Warren and Euan travelled from Bendigo the same day starting early and bringing the Clan trailer (containing the tent and display materials) with them. The Clan tent went up easily, held steady by four weights attached to the uprights. The table and four chairs we had were useful, but the display board was not really adequate to display photos and other materials.

Clan Matheson tent at Melbourne Highland Games

...Melbourne Highland Games continued

We have two banners, one is the well-travelled tartan banner and the other (there were originally two) a plastic display banner. We need a new display banner, several display sandwich boards (on easels) and better means of displaying photos.

The events were pretty much standard – piping competitions at several proficiency levels, a Clan march past, speeches (mercifully brief since they were inaudible), food and drink. There were many Clan tents, but they were placed away from the area where events took place. Clan attendees could therefore not see the caber-tossing, stone lifting, hammer throwing and other joy-inducing events without abandoning the reason for their attendance. Nevertheless, Clan tents were visible to Gathering attendees and a steady stream of visitors, both welcome and less so, were entertained. One was a gentleman wearing a great kilt, a Jacobite shirt, a bonnet and nothing else who passed by and offered us his wisdom several times.



Sheena Wright (l), Mary Molan (c) and Margaret Fleming

Two very welcome visitors were Sheena Wright and Pamela Hardwick, both residents of Croydon and both Mathesons, who joined the Clan Society. Sheena said she had attended the Ringwood Games many times with her mother, hoping to see some Clan Matheson representation. Her mother had died during 2021 and she was sad not to have been able to share with her the emotion at finding us at last at this Gathering. We were also able to sell some \$100-worth of Clan merchandise on the day.

We participated in the March of the Clans and at first had primacy of position until usurped by the Hendersons. Alistair Henderson of Fordell, Chief of the Name and Arms of Henderson, gave a speech and the Hendersons were the 'Honoured Clan', leading them to claim precedence. The March took us from the Clan Tent area around past the official dais to an area out of hearing of the speeches. Our redoubtable piper, Vice-President Warren, proudly bore our Clan tartan banner in the March with distinction as he so frequently does.



Mary Molan (l), Sheena Wright (c) and Warren preparing for the Clan marchpast

When it came time to dismantle the Clan tents and for us to depart, our neighbours' tent (Buchanan) collapsed dramatically in uncontrolled fashion in contrast to our

careful tent dismantling and packing away. In general, the physical arrangements for the Gathering were excellent, parking and crowd management were very well-done.

Tatura Water Tower Mural Project.

By Robert Mathieson

Continuing from my last article regarding this mural, I can now show you all the images of the completed Tatura Water Tower mural, a project by the Tatura Returned and Services League.

The mural was painted by artists Cam Scale and Andy Davis who did a magnificent job, contending with the fickle weather we were experiencing as well as the countless “issues” one gets when dealing with bureaucracies. I frequently looked to the Clan Motto (Fac et Spera—Do and Hope) for fortitude.

The mural was unveiled on a cold but fine day, 27th June 2021, the exact anniversary of Gen. Sir John Monash’s birth in 1865.

The Great Grandson of Sir John Monash, Mr Michael Bennett and his Wife who gave their approval to use the name and image of Monash on the tower were able to join us on the day.

Overall, the Project took three and a half years to complete, although there is some beautification of the tower surrounds to be done, such as fence realignment, an interpretive sign and some lighting to be installed.

The water tower mural is on the Nth East Art trail and soon to partner with Google maps, so it will be easier to check it out, stay and look over our welcoming Town.



At the opening:

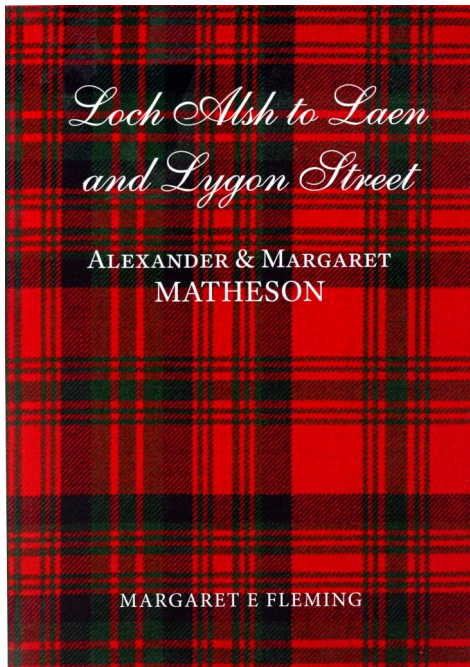
Cr Kim O’Keefe, Mayor of the City of Greater Shepparton: Mr Michael Bennet, Great Grandson of Gen. Sir John Monash: Hon. Mark Gepp, State Member for Northern Victoria: Hon. Jeanette Powell, former Member for Shepparton and Mr Robert Mathieson, Life Member, Tatura RSL.

Planning the order in a Family History Book

Notes for a lecture by Margaret Fleming

When writing anything, that you expect others to read, the main consideration is who is your audience? Your own Memoirs maybe for you alone, but eventually others may read them. The readers of a Family History Book are the family, close or scattered, and all the descendants of the earliest subjects of your book, or specifically your own descendants. You need to clarify the locations you include – where did they come from, settle. Assume the coming generations know very little – explain carefully with maps.

We all have 16 Great Great Grandparents. Do we write 16 books? Eight Books would be better – or even four.



This is the cover of Margaret's family history of her Matheson family. It was published in 2017 and is ISBN 978-0-646-97751-5.

I start with the couple who emigrated to Australia. Chapters look like this:

LAND of ORIGIN: Chapter on the place, their ancestors (pedigree and Family tree of ancestors), occupations, reason for emigrating, the 'Ship' they sailed on and Port they arrived at. (2 sections - if husband and wife came from different places).

FIRST HOME in Victoria – settlement, occupation, gold fields. Marriage if in Australia.

SECOND PLACE – acquiring farm land as a selector – description of, arrival of children, life, etc

THIRD PLACE – retirement, death, Cemetery

CHILDREN'S LIVES childhood, Marriage including a Blocked note of the Spouse's Family, Included in each are the grandchildren and their spouses and their children – maybe in column form (Have to be careful of privacy – need permission to include later material), followed by a family tree.

...Planning the order in a Family History Book continued

Last page, separate history of the Place where they lived.

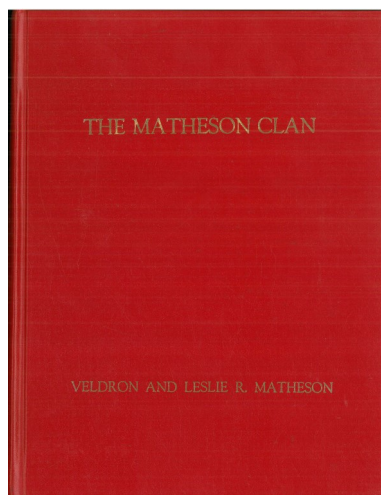
6. CHILD No. 2 7. CHILD No. 3 8. CHILD No.4 9. Etc 10. Etc.

Any other relevant information EG: I put in a Chapter at the end about Clan Matheson and Scottish History. In my Muller book (German heritage) we put in a conclusion drawing the past and present together, cousins fighting cousins in WWI and WWII.

At the BACK: Appendices, Acknowledgements, Contributors, Conversions, Bibliography (References), Index, About the Authors, and full Family Trees to the 4th Generations (either at the back or at the end of each chapter).

At the FRONT: Title page, Imprint page, Dedication, Contents, Preface.

HINTS: Intersperse the text with photos, maps, simple family trees and charts – to make it more attractive. Put detailed family tree at the back. Tell descendants to start reading their Grandparents/parents/Chapter. Explain that this is like an encyclopaedia – look up when you need some facts – and it is also for all children and grandchildren.



This is an example of a self-published family history book of some Mathesons who migrated to Canada and later to USA. Its full title is "The Alexander Matheson family of Canada and The United States". It is a very rare book held only by two or three libraries in the world although there are probably copies held by family members in Canada and USA. The family is related to some of our Australian Mathesons.

Putting your Family History Research into a Book.

Notes for a lecture by Margaret Fleming

Once you have decided you have done enough research and have written up what you want to include – it will take a minimum of 6 months to get the book into publication form ready to have a book launch. You need a typesetter and a Printer, but you are the Publisher. The typesetter will help you get an ISBN Number.

STEPS:

1. Most of the research has been done and the photos collected.
2. Type up the story using Word – plain writing, simple headings
3. Print out the story – hard copy at Officeworks
4. Order the photos – first in Chapters A, B, C, etc and then in numbers 1, 2, 3, etc
5. Print out Family Trees from your Computer Programme eg; Family Tree Maker.

...Putting your Family History Research into a Book continued.

6. Mark in the script, with a red biro, the numbers of the pictures on the typed pages – exactly where you want them placed and the size, eg: ½ a page, 1/8 page, 1/16 page, etc

7. Set a date for the book launch – in 6 months – definitely do this – as it will keep you to a time line – and you have to advertise the launch date to all relatives and interested people.

ALLOW:

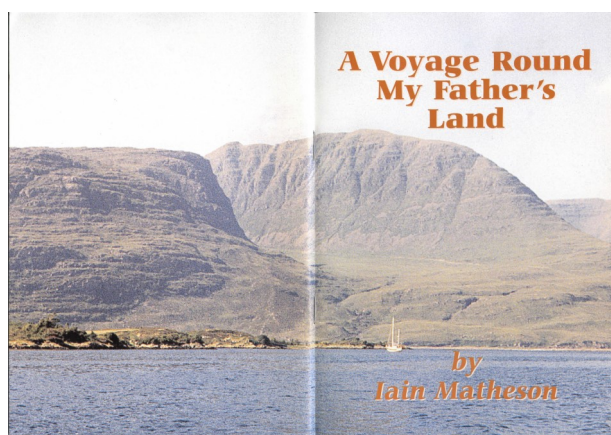
3 months to get it to the typesetter – with lots of reviews (they set the style)

One month to get it proof read and the first copy printed.

One month for the index

One month to get it printed and organize the Book Launch

Stick to the planning and timing as it will drag on too long.



This is the cover of another self-published Matheson book, this time about the traditional Matheson lands in Lochalsh.

INDEX

Type up a list of names and places mentioned in the text, in alphabetical order, in columns, while you are finishing the typing of the story. Add to it as you go.

When the book is set out, print out your typed lists – could be ten pages – lay them out in order on the dining room table.

Go through the entire text page by page (with a ruler) and mark on your lists the page Number of the name mentioned. You'll have hundreds of page numbers.

When the whole book is done –

Type in the numbers next to the names (you can still add more names in alphabetical order) – and you'll have columns with the numbers – that the typesetter can manipulate into fewer pages.

My "Book Lady" typesetter is SYLVIE BLAIR of BOOKPOD. She sets out and designs the book, inserts the photos and maps and tidies them up, advises on the type of paper, cover design and the type style. She has a printer who does a great job under her direction. Find a typesetter in your area - they usually have a printer working for them.



Clan Matheson Merchandise 2021



Ladies Polo Shirt
 Sizes 12, 14, 16
 White, beige \$25



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



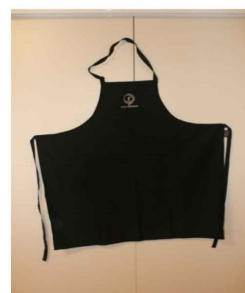
Caps Black, Sand \$15 One Size Fits All - Knitted Beanie Navy, Black \$15 One Size Fits All
 Bucket Hats, Sand \$15 Sizes S/M or L/XL - Polar Fleece Beanie Navy, Black \$15 One Size Fits All



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



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



BBQ Apron
 Black /green \$25



Mugs, white, \$10 each
 Drink Bottle, white, \$5
 Stubby Holder, Black, \$5

To order:
 Contact Euan McGillivray
mcgh@optusnet.com.au
 0438 133770

Postage not included



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