# Murray Clan Society of NSW



# Newsletter - January 2023



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#### Welcome

Greetings everyone. Welcome to the first clan newsletter for 2023. It has been a while since the last one, but with the cancellation of the last three Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festivals there hasn't been a lot to report on.

We hope that this year will see a renewal of our regular activity.

The Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival will be held on **Saturday**, **3<sup>rd</sup> June** this year, starting with a massed bands parade in Central Park at 9.00am. The Committee will be meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March to decide what form our own gathering will take on that day. There will certainly be a Murray tent with the usual hospitality offered to visitors. I will send out another newsletter after the Committee meeting to inform members of what we are planning.

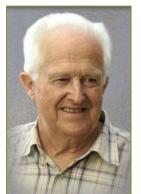
## **Annual General Meeting**

There would normally have been an election of all positions in 2022 as the current committee had completed its three-year term, but without a gathering we were unable to hold a meeting.

There will be an AGM held during the day at the Wingham festival and further details will be provided in the next Newsletter. I have had the privilege of serving as President since 2007 and believe that after 16 years it is time to hand over at least some of the responsibilities to someone a bit younger. My main duties are secretarial: calling meetings, preparing agendas, writing minutes, developing and managing the website and dealing with online enquiries, and writing and distributing the newsletter etc.

I believe that a lot more could be done with the website in the hands of an enthusiastic web designer. We have just renewed our domain name for another ten years so the opportunity is there for a fresh approach. Are there any web enthusiasts out there who would like to take it on??? It needs an overhaul and I am not the person to do it.

#### **Jack Weekes**



Jack Weekes, loving husband of our longtime committee member Jan Murray, passed away on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022 aged 88 years. Jack before retirement was a successful and hardworking farmer, loving and much loved family man, and committed Christian. Always on the lookout to help others, he was a thorough gentleman.

Jack and Jan had been married for ten years, although they had known each other since her infancy. Retirement allowed time for travel within Australia, holidays at Tuncurry and other interests. Jan has written: "My

family and I were accepted into Jack's family for which I am extremely grateful. It has been a blessing to be able to share my life with a wonderful and loving man."



We extend our condolences to Jan and to Jack's family as they adjust to life without Jack.

#### **DNA News**

Update on DNA research from our expert, Leigh Murray.

We often talk about the ability of YDNA to determine our family line. While very important I want today to talk about the most common DNA test undertaken.

I am, of course, talking about the autosomal test – or, if you like, the test that covers 22 of our chromosomes. Yes, I know there are 23 chromosomes, but that 23<sup>rd</sup> chromosome is used for other purposes- the other 22 tell more about us.

Now, we all think we get 50% of that DNA from our fathers and 50% of that DNA from our mothers. Well we get close to that, but it isn't always exactly 50%.

Oops, our Dads have 100% and our Mums have 100% and we only receive 50% from each. What happens to the other 50%? It is wasted, but it is still very important for determining our relatives.

There is something else I want you to realise. All of those chromosomes and the genome it contains carry messages that originated at the start of mankind. That is a little mind blowing, isn't it? That is the reason the majority of us have two eyes, two ears, 1 nose, 1 mouth, etc. Yes, you are older than you thought.

Of course, things change; there are mutations that occur over that time. Why or where those mutations occur no-one knows, but when they occur they are passed on.

We do know, however, that our DNA comes across from our parents in "chunks". It isn't one single gene at a time, it is a chunk of DNA that we receive. It seems some bits are stickier than other bits.

Because of those sticky bits that come in a chunk we can determine who is related to us. We also know that anyone who has a chunk of 10 centiMorgans [let's call them units] in length have a 98% chance of being related to every other person with that same chunk of DNA.

Those 10 units could be found in anyone descended from our great, great, great, great, grandparents.



So, who is my great, great, great grandparent on the Murray line? It is the John Murray that we call John Murray III and who was married to Mary Cleugh. Anyone, from the generation before me will go back to John Murray II and Jean Henderson.

Unfortunately, when looking at autosomal DNA we CAN obtain results which go back further than the family trees we prepare. That could mean we don't know from where that piece of DNA comes. We can solve this problem by getting enough people from different parts of the family undertaking DNA tests. Having a number of relatives testing can help us to find that other 50% that you didn't get from your parents.

I know of one doctor in the USA who is trying to recreate the DNA of an unknown ancestor – the outcome of his analysis will be to help identify the family line for all of our respective cousins.

So, how do we progress our family knowledge? We firstly obtain an autosomal test from a major provider, we upload the results [for free] to sites such as MyHeritage and FTDNA – [they both accept uploads at no cost].

It is always best to do the test during sales that the FTDNA advertise from time to time.

#### **Blair Castle**

A photograph of Blair Castle, Scotland, taken after the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and showing the Union Jack at half-mast. The photo was posted on the Castle's Facebook page with the words:

In deep respect and love for The Queen.

"Throughout all my life and with all my heart I shall strive to be worthy of your trust." Rest in Peace Your Majesty.



### Murraytown

Although I have travelled a little in South Australia, I had not come across Murraytown until a friend posted a photo of the Murraytown Hotel on Facebook. The hotel has been closed for many years.

The town derives its name from Alexander Borthwick Murray, who emigrated from Dumfriesshire, Scotland. With his brother John, he introduced the Murray Merino sheep to Australia. From 1841 they crossed merino ewes from Camden NSW with rams from Tasmania. The Murray merinos produced a



very fine wool and were the foundation of many early South Australian wool studs.

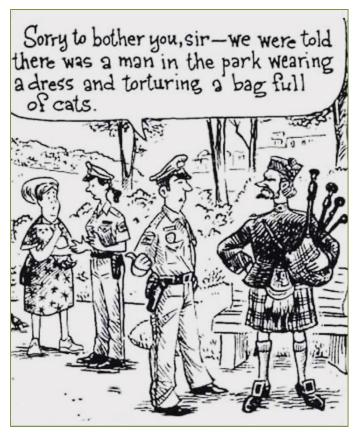
The Murraytown area, east of the lower Flinders ranges, was settled from 1833 and by the 1880s was an important rest stop for bullock teams and livestock travelling both from the north and the east towards Port Germein. Murraytown became a thriving community with grocers, bakers, butchers, pawn brokers and general stores. The streets bore the first names of members of the Murray families.

With a population now of only 58 people, the little town is a popular stopping place for travellers, with a playground and barbecues.



Former Uniting Church, Murraytown

#### **Just for Fun**



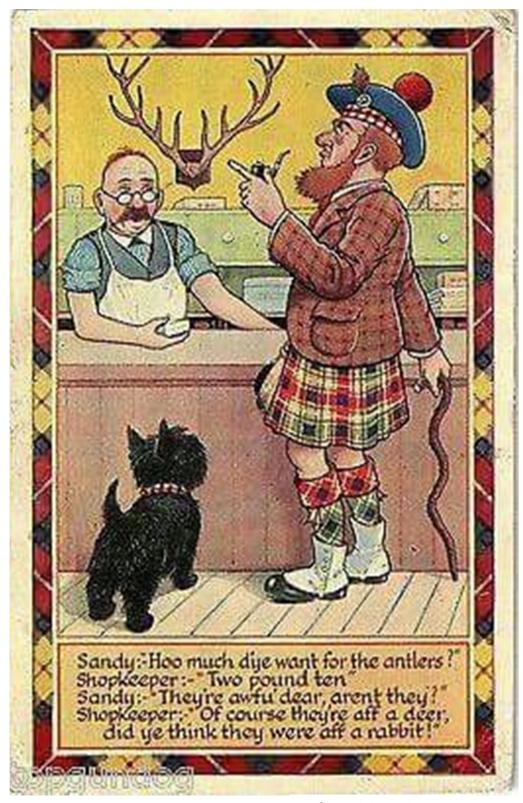
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Inverclyde, a local Council area west of Glasgow, has a Facebook page to keep residents informed about road conditions. This photo accompanied an announcement that two feet of snow had been recorded





Crombi, copyright holder unknown



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Warm regards from all of us on the Committee.

Ross Murray

President