

# 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.



So, who is my great, 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



*Murraytown Hotel*



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



*Copyright unknown*

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





"OK, lad - bring along the murder weapon."

CartoonStock.com



"MITHER, IS IT TRUE WE SPRUNG FAE MONKEYS?"

"I DINNA KEN LADDIE, I WISNA VERY WEEL ACQUAINT WI' YER FAITHER'S FOLK."

*Crombi, copyright holder unknown*





Sandy:- Hoo much diye want for the antlers?  
Shopkeeper:- "Two pound ten"  
Sandy:- "They're awfu' dear, aren't they?"  
Shopkeeper:- "Of course they're aff a deer,  
did ye think they were aff a rabbit!"

*Copyright unknown*

Warm regards from all of us on the Committee.

Ross Murray

President