



August 2017– Issue 29

FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Hello again and welcome to our latest newsletter with Christmas fast approaching!

I trust you are all well and staying “flu” free. I would like to send our member Mavys Daniels a speedy recovery, we are all thinking of you.

At our AGM held on the 28th May 2017 the committee for 2018 was confirmed with the existing 2016 committee elected to remain in their positions along with Rodney Hutchison to join the committee.

The Ipswich Highland Gathering was held on the 10 June and was a great day. The event was well supported by the public culminating with the massed piped bands (18) at the end of the day being heard miles away. What a great sound, I think there is nothing more stirring than the sounds of the pipes and drums.

The following weekend Jim, Judy and I went to the Fassifern Clydesdale Spectacular at Boonah and once again it was a great weekend. The Clydesdale and Freisian horses were magnificent although Judy was quite happy to be in the next paddock behind the fence, behind the people, in fact not within cooee of a horse. Thank goodness for telephoto lenses! Greta and her committee are to be congratulated on a great weekend. We will definitely be back in 2018 to support this worthy event.

Back home only to unpack and repack ready for Scotland in the Park the following weekend. An early start for all of us (4am) and huge thanks to those members who came along before the dawn skies and helped in the freezing cold to set up not only the Clan Donald tent but the Scottish Clans Congress Haggis tent and spent all day cooking haggis, black pudding, tattie scones and sausages for the public and then stayed to help pull down. Thanks also to those who helped Judy in the Clan Tent she could not have done it without you.

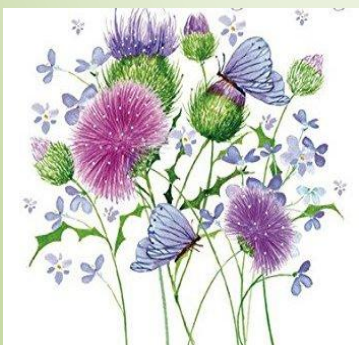
The inaugural A.W.R. MacDonald Trophy of \$1000.00 was awarded to the Grade 4 Murrumba Pipe Band. Congratulations, a well deserved win!

The Voice Makes Music in the Night By Alice C MacDonnell of Keppoch c.1902

“Thy voice makes music in the night,
When all the warring sounds are still;
I hear it the rushing wings
Of winds that’s weep the wooded hill,
In whispering accents sweet it breathes,
Low midst the mystic rowan leaves;
They voice makes music in the night,
Though thou art far away.

I hear it when the west winds blow
Up from the scented woodland ways,
I hear it in the rise and fall
Of waters where the hill burn strays.
Some word low uttered, years ago,
Sobs in the night tide’s ebb and flow;
They voice makes music in the night
That o’er my heart-strings play.

They voice makes music in the night,
Though I hear those tones no more;
Until the purple dawn shall break
In shimmering light on yon dim shore;
The words I ne’er may hear again
Wake into memory’s sweetest pain;
They voice makes music in the night,
Though tho art far away.



Malcolm McDonald O.A.M. Toiseach of the Finlaggan Council presented the prize on behalf of the Clan Donald Lands Trust, Isle of Skye. Malcolm gave a brief talk on the Clan Donald Lands Trust and outlined the future of this annual award, generating much interest in next year's prize.

The Kirkin of the Tartan was held at St Andrews Uniting Church and once again was well supported by the Clans and their members. Our thanks go to the Reverend Bruce Johnson and his flock for making the day a great success.

We were then able to have a two week break which allowed us to re-coup and restock ready for Tartan Day. After another early 4am start, we headed off to King George Square hoping that the day would be fine and not wet like last year. We were in luck (well that is till we started to pull down and down came the rain). The Clan Donald Haggis tent was once again a great success with the crowd and once again, thank you to all who came along and manned both tents. We could not do these events without your support and willingness to "get stuck in" and help out wherever required.

The sale of the "Kilted Koozies" (stubbie/can holders) that we have all been busy making have been a great success. Some have evolved into collapsible kilted holders adding to the range. Judy and her group are now getting ready for Rod and Catherine to take some to Scots in the Bush at Boondooma Homestead 17-20 August 2017. A great weekend but camping only facilities are available. If you have a tent, a campervan or motor home and want to enjoy a great Scottish weekend, go along and enjoy the atmosphere of a truly unique event. But take your woollies it can be a bit chilly at night. (see flyer at end).

Our next meeting will be held here at our home on the 9th September (10.30 am for coffee and cake and an 11am start) and as always, everyone is welcome. Lunch to follow.

Until next time

Moran Taing

Neil Macdonald

Welcome to New members

Shantelle Sherrington, Goodna Qld
David Wayne Macdonald, Boyland Qld
Heather Clark, Logan Village Qld
Malcolm Wood, Logan Village Qld
Kerri Bray, Caboolture Qld

CLAN DONALD MEETINGS 2017
9 SEP 2017
9 DEC 2017 (CHRISTMAS LUNCH)

DIARY DATES 2018
MARCH 2018 – NZ conference 22 March 2018 –
25 Mar 2018

Photo Gallery

Ipswich Highland Gathering



Clydesdale Spectacular Boonah



Scotland in the Park



Murrumba Pipe Band – Winner of the inaugural A.W.R. MacDonald Prize of \$1000



**Presentation to the Murrumba Pipe Band
By Malcolm McDonald, O.A.M., Toiseach
Finlaggan Council and Neil Macdonald
Commissioner Clan Donald Queensland**



Just us "girls" - Judy - Anne - and Marion



Clan Donald members man the Haggis Tent for the Scottish Clans Congress



All set up and ready to go



Calling of the Clans



Dancer of the Day Brianna Hansell



Kirkin of the Tartan



Tartan Day



The Happy Haggis Tent



From every advantage point, the Clan Donald tent stood out.



CLAN DONALD CASTLES

Acquired by building, conquering, stealing, gifts (Bruce), marriage, buying, title (Ross), from friends, enemies, no one

Caisteal Bheagram

North of Lochboisdale, South Uist. Held by Ranald Alanson MacDonald of Dunsgathaich.

Standing on an islet in Loch an Eilean, Caisteal Bheagram is a ruined 17th century tower house, although the site was occupied by a dun or earlier castle before this. The tower has two shot holes. The perimeter of the island was surrounded by another wall, and within were several other buildings and a garden, all now reduced to foundations. There was apparently a causeway out to the island. It was held by Ranald Alanson of Ylandbigrim, a MacDonald who also held Dun Sgathaich in Sleat in 1505.

Caisteal Dubh nan Cliar

Caisteal Dubh nan Cliar, the Black Castle of the Minstrels, stands on the Ormsaigbeg shore below Ian Cameron's croft. The coastline there is a low cliff line broken by small gorges down which rills of water flow, places of wildflowers in summer. The 'castle' is built against the western side of a natural rock outcrop on top of a small, steep-sided knoll, its flanks covered with rubble that have fallen from the structure. Some of the walls are cemented, and the roof appears to have been formed of large slabs of rock.

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland categorise it as a 'Tower House' and date it as 16th century. They suggest that it had two storeys, and that it might have served as 'an outpost of Mingary Castle'.

For several reasons, it seems to me highly unlikely that it was a fortification. No more than two or three soldiers could have occupied it, and even they would have found life rather cramped. Further, it is hardly in a good defensive position - the cliff top to its immediate west, from which the photo below was taken, directly overlooks it. There are far better sites, at superior elevation and with sounder natural defences, within a short distance - for example, the cliff top at *Maol Buidhe*, which offers views across the Sound and as far west as Tiree.



MEM Donaldson, who travelled in this area of the Highlands in the early years of the 20th century, suggested that it might have been the "abode of some 'minstrel' of solitary habit" who, in celebration of his skills, called his place a 'castle'. Perhaps he wasn't that good. In fact, perhaps he was so terrible that his laird built him a 'castle' and sealed him into it.

Caisteal Mhic Cneacall

Ross and Cromarty – west of Ullapool on promontory on the east side of Loch Broom on Ullapool Point.

Site of castle – some remains of which survived about 1900. It may have been the property of the MacDonnells or MacDonalds although the name means Mac Nicholson's Castle.

The MacDonalds (MacDonells) of Keppoch



On the 13th of September 2006 the Lord Lyon matriculated the arms of *Ranald Alasdair MacDonald of Lochaber Mhic Raonuill* as chief of the MacDonalds of Keppoch. The crest authorized by the first chief of the Keppoch branch since 1848 incorporates the golden eagle with outspread wings wearing a crown. The motto the chief has chosen is "*Air Muir `s Air Tir*" which is the Gaelic for the Latin "*Per Mare Per Terras*", which means "By Sea By Land". The crest at right is our artist's rendition of the crest atop the matriculated arms of the new chief. The wearing of this belted crest by those associated with the Keppoch branch of Clan Donald has been authorized by the Keppoch chief. The 1750 Keppoch artifact tartan was selected for his clansmen to wear rather than the Keppoch tartan registered in 1815. The new chief's surname is a classic example of the various spellings of the surname. The current Keppoch chief spells his name MacDonald (with a capital D), but his grandfather spelled his name MacDonell. Many of the Keppoch branch have used the McDonell spelling and there are records of a few MackDonald spellings. It will be interesting to see if the new chief's surname will determine his clansmen's spelling of the name in future generations.

See the lands of Keppoch in the Armadale video

Also known as Clanranald of *Lochaber*, the MacDonalds or MacDonells of *Keppoch* (Gaelic *Ceapaich* = *plot of land*) inhabited the point of land between *Loch Linnhe* and *Loch Leven*. *Lochaber* is from the P-Gaelic (Pictish) meaning the *convergence of lochs*. The P-Gaelic "*Aber*" is more common in northeast Scotland as in Aberdeen (*the mouth of the river Dee*). The reason "*Aber*" is at the end rather than the beginning is unknown. Possibly there was an assumption "*aber*" was the name of a loch. The original Gaelic was two words, *loch aber* and it is unknown if or when the two words were reversed. The Q-Gaelic (Scots) equivalent of "*Aber*" is "*Inver*" as in *Inverness* (*mouth of the river Ness*). *Loch* is believed to have originally been the name of a Celtic goddess of *deep* darkness or *deep* water. It is interesting that a language that literally has hundreds of different words to describe different rock formations would use the same word to describe a fresh water lake, a salt water bay, and a large pond. It is likely the Gaelic word *Loch* refers to the *depth* of the water rather than the shape or source as we do in English.



The oldest record of *Lochaber* is of King Alexander II conferring *Lochaber* to Walter Comyn, Chancellor of Scotland, in 1228 AD. *Lochaber* was already populated by MacDougalls and MacDonalds by that time. Comyn was a powerful Anglo/Norman family who supported the Balliol family's claim to the Scottish throne. The descendants of *Sòmhairlidh* (Somerled) also supported Balliol's claim until *Angus Og* befriended Robert the Bruce who had murdered John Comyn during a "quarrel". When Angus Og hid the Bruce he departed from generations of Clan Donald support for the Balliol claim to the Scottish throne. Balliol, with an English political alliance, had promised recognition of the Lordship of the Isles as a sovereign kingdom. But most Scottish nobles demanded the Lordship submit to the Scottish King. When Angus Og was elected Lord of the Isles he mustered a formidable army to support the Bruce at Bannockburn. In 1309 Robert the Bruce bestowed *Lochaber* and many other western lands and islands upon Angus Og which expanded the Lordship far beyond its pre-Bannockburn boundaries. The royal charter to *Lochaber* was passed on to the next Lord of the Isles, Good John, who married Margaret, princess of Scotland. From this marriage with Scottish royalty sprang three of the branches of Clan Donald including the Macdonells of Keppoch from their youngest son, Alasdair *Carragh* (Gaelic = *pillar of strength*). Most histories identify him as Alasdair *Carrach* which has a much less desirable meaning (scruffy). What a difference changing just one letter makes in Gaelic! Three other branches came from Good John by his first wife Amie MacRuairi. But

neither royal charter, nor royal blood guaranteed the Keppochs' right to dwell on the lands of their ancestors. They held them for over 400 years, but they held them by sword, rather than royal decree.



The Keppochs retained the ancient Celtic order of the chief being elected from the *derbfine* after most clan chiefs became feudal land lords appointed by the crown, collecting rent from their crofters, and enforcing royal edicts of "Fire & Sword". An example of the Celtic order was the Keppoch chief *Iain Aluinn (handsome)*. *Iain* turned over a popular Keppoch warrior, *Domhnall Ruadh Beag (Gaelic = Little Red Donald)*, to the Mackintosh chief on condition "*no blood be spilt*". He was accused of cattle theft (it was a frequent pastime in the Highlands). Small bands of men would rustle a few head of cattle. If they succeeded in returning to their clan, the victims only recourse was to complain to the royal privy (government) who were not powerful enough to take on the entire clan. A summons would be issued which the chief would ignore. *Iain* departed from the common practice and turned *Domhnall Ruadh Beag* over. The Mackintosh hung *Domhnall* by the neck until dead, thereby keeping his promise that "*no blood be spilt*". The Keppoch clan was so incensed that in the Celtic manner they removed *Iain* and as clan chief and elected *Iain's* uncle as the new chief according to the Celtic law of *Tanistry* (the most worthy of



a family rather than the eldest son).

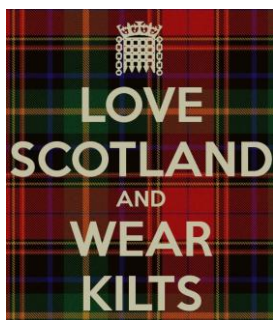
The Keppochs had more than their share of deadly quarrels with neighboring clans. *Ranald Mor*, 7th chief of Keppoch was betrayed by his brother-in-law, William Mackintosh, and turned over to Huntly to be beheaded in Elgin. In 1563 *Ranald Og*, 9th Keppoch Chief contracted with Colin Campbell of Glenorchy to execute "Fire & Sword" against the outlawed Clan Gregor (*Children of the Mist*) in *Rannoch Moor*. *Alasdair nan Cleas (of the tricks)* was an outstanding Keppoch Chief who established an effective

peace with neighboring clans. After the 1638 signing of the Covenant (a declaration of civil war against Catholics) the *Macdonells of Keppoch* (as they spelled it at that time) found it necessary to join with other Highland Episcopalian and Catholic clans to battle Campbell of Argyll who lead many Covenanter troops into Keppoch country to burn Episcopalian and Catholic chapels and slaughter those who believed a church should be governed by Bishops (Covenanters often failed to distinguish between Episcopalians & Catholics). *Donald Glas (gray)* of Keppoch joined the legendary *John Moidartach* of Clanranald and *Angus Mac Alan Dubh (dark)* of Glencoe to fight with Montrose. They were instrumental in outmaneuvering Campbell forces in the mountains over *Inverlochry*. The Argyll forces were completely taken by surprise. The Keppoch poet, *Iain Lom* reminded the Campbells, "*to not forget their bonnets floating in the river, but get on with their swimming lessons!*" (1645).



In 1661 Alexander 13th Chief of Keppoch was as unlucky as his number. Alexander was raised by his uncle Sir James of Sleat and sent to the continent for his education. He returned with very continental ideas of

the chief being above his "subjects". He was not a popular chief. On September 5th, 1663 a group of men fell upon Alexander and murdered him in his sleep. The Keppoch bard *Iain Lom* was outraged at the lack of Keppoch enthusiasm for revenge. He took his case for revenge before Glengarry, but found the same apathy. He presented his case before Sir James of Sleat who wisely sought and obtained the Privy Council's commission to apprehend the nine murderers. Two had fled the country, but the other seven were slain when they resisted arrest. *Iain Lom* cut off their heads and washed them in a spring which became known as "*Tobair nan Ceann (Well of the Heads)*". The Keppochs fought bravely from Harlaw in 1411 to Culloden in 1745 the Keppoch men formed the strength of the Highland fighting force. Alexander 17th of Keppoch charged into the fray alone at Culloden shouting, "*Mo Dhia, an do threig clann mo chinnidh mi?*" (*My God, have the children of my clan forsaken me?*) The Keppoch men were among the last to lay down their arms after Culloden.



THE GLENFINNAN MONUMENT

If there is a more beautifully situated monument in Britain than the Glenfinnan Monument, I have yet to see it. This striking stone tower stands in isolated splendour on the shore of Loch Shiel, close to the spot where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard on 19 August 1745.

Prince Charles Edward Stuart was the son of James VIII of Scotland and II of England. He had been raised in exile, but raised with the firm belief that his father deserved to be the rightful king of England and Scotland. He also believed, wrongly as it turned out, that huge numbers of English and Scots were ready to support his father's cause.

The Prince set sail from France in a hired ship, the *De Tallay*, and landed at Eriskay. From there he sailed to Loch nan Uamh, about 15 miles west of Glenfinnan. He anticipated a large welcome from the Highland clans, but was disappointed by the low numbers of supporters ready to welcome him. However, the grand moment was yet to come. Word was sent to Jacobite supporters across the Highlands and in Edinburgh that the Prince had arrived. Supporters were called to Glenfinnan for the raising of the Stuart standard. The act of raising a standard was a symbolic one; it had no real significance except that it gave notice to the Prince's supporters and his enemies that he officially claimed the throne for his father, and called on all who supported him to join his army.



The view from the Glenfinnan viewpoint
Accounts of the day are somewhat difficult to unravel. Almost certainly the standard was not raised where the monument now stands; more likely a small hill nearby was used, possibly the same hill that now offers a viewing platform for the monument and the viaduct further up the glen.

As for the monument itself, it was built in 1815 by Alexander Macdonald of Glenaladale, a local landowner, whose father's cousin was the chief with whom the prince

stayed the night before the standard was raised. Macdonald himself died the same year the Monument was built, after a life given to pleasureable pursuits and way too much drinking. Much of his life seems to have been given over to the grand, theatrical gesture - much like the prince he sought to commemorate.



Approaching the monument

Macdonald hired James Gillespie Graham, one of the leading architects of early 19th century Scotland, to design a classically inspired column with Tudor Gothic decorative elements. Macdonald family tradition says that Graham used William Miller of Fort William as his master mason for the job.

The column is entered by a porticoed doorway in the base, which gives onto an internal spiral stair. The stair leads to a platform surmounted by a huge statue of a man in Highland dress. Though the statue may represent Bonnie Prince Charlie, it may equally be meant to represent a generic Highland chief. Interestingly, the monument did not initially have a statue on top; that was added during a second phase of work in the 1830s. It was designed by sculptor John Greenshields.

The base of the statue is surrounded by a low stone wall, into which are set plaques detailing the purpose of the monument in three languages; Latin, Gaelic, and English.

Though you can climb the monument and look out over Loch Shiel from the top, by far the best way to get the full impact of the Glenfinnan Monument is to climb the low hill behind the visitor centre. This hill, which may be the very one where the prince's standard was raised, gives you wonderful views over the loch and the monument below, and up the glen to the viaduct.

Our Verdict

One of Scotland's truly iconic sights; come in the early morning and see the mist rolling across the head of the loch, shrouding the memorial on its slender column.

OS: NM901808

Photo Credit: David Ross and Britain Express



The Bonnie Prince Charlie memorial



The original memorial tablet



The tower entrance, Glen Shiel beyond

COOKERY CORNER

TATTIE SCONES

- 1lb/500g potatoes, cooked and mashed
- 1 oz/30g butter, melted plus extra for greasing
- 1/2tsp salt
- 1 medium egg
- 4 oz/125g flour, plus a little extra for rolling out
- 1tsp baking powder
- Preheat the oven to 395°F/200°C/Gas 6
- Place the mashed potato in a large baking bowl and add all the other ingredients to form a sticky dough.
- Roll out the dough on a floured surface to approx ½ inch/1 cm thickness. Cut into saucer sized rounds then score a cross into the dough to mark 4 equal wedges.
- Grease a baking sheet with butter and bake the scones for 15 minutes until golden brown and risen. The scones can also be cooked on the stove top on a griddle or heavy-based frying pan. Cook the scones 5 minutes on either side until golden and risen
- Eat while warm.



About Glenfinnan Monument

Address: NTS Information Centre, Glenfinnan, Lochaber, Highlands, Highland, Scotland, PH37 4LT

Attraction Type: Historic Building - Monument

Location: On the A830, 18 miles (30 km) west of Fort William

Website: Glenfinnan Monument

Email: glenfinnan@nts.org.uk

Phone: 01397 722250

National Trust for Scotland

[Location map](#)

*Under the patronage of
the High Council of the Chiefs of Clan Donald*

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Scottish & Celtic Festival

17th to 20th August 2017

Ceilidh with Celtic Crossover on Thursday
Evening

Kirkin’ o’ the Tartan on Sunday morning

Featuring:

**Celtic Psychosis, Darryl Craft, Velcro,
The Clan, Leaping Lizards, Noosa &
District Pipe Band, Celtic Crossover,
Ishka, Rum City Highland Dancers, Celtic
Thunder, Celtic Kin, The Scottish
Balladeer – Brian Letton, The Scottie Dog
Mascots, Burdekin Celtic Dancers &
Others to be Confirmed.**

Join us for the Boondooma Highland
games. Scottish food & much more, Stalls
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“Scots in the Bush” – a weekend of fun filled
entertainment for all the family. Bar & Meals
are available.

Admission: \$65 pp full weekend. Children
under 14, FREE.

Includes: entry, bush camping and all
entertainment. Day rates available.

Inquiries: Buddy Thomson – Lynne Bennett
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For more info:

www.boondoomahomestead.org.au

SORRY-NO EFTPOS



SKARA BRE -Archaeologists estimate that 50-100 people lived in the village. When the settlement was built, the houses were 1,500 meters from the sea. Now, the sea has dug closer to the village and the view from the settlement has changed from pastures to the sea.



The settlement's seven or eight houses were connected to each other by tunnels. Each residence could be closed off with a stone door.



In every room, one bed was always bigger than the other, but no one knows why. Each room also contains cabinets, dressers, seats, and storage boxes. These boxes were built to be waterproof, suggesting that they might have stored live seafood for later consumption.



One house is distinct from the other, however. Archaeologists didn't find any beds or other furniture. The house is believed to have functioned as a workshop.



Amazingly, the village also had a sewage system and each house had its own toilet.



Skara Brae was a society which centered around families. The dwellings are all quite similar, which led archaeologists to conclude that this society was a fairly equal one, without any authoritative leadership.



Some believe that the villagers were Picts, a people of unknown origin who settled in eastern and northern Scotland near the end of the British Iron Age. But archaeological findings have shown that the people who lived here could have lived much earlier than that.



What's the future look like for Skara Brae? Although the settlement was built nearly two kilometers from the beach, in recent centuries, it has been increasingly threatened by the sea. Since 1926, the houses have been protected from the approaching sea and harsh autumn winds by a concrete wall.



A number of mysterious discoveries have been made at the site, including this carved stone ball, though no one really knows what it was used for.



There has been talk about building an artificial beach with boulders and breakwater to preserve Skara Brae and several other ancient monuments at risk of being destroyed. But nothing has happened yet. Until further notice, tourists continue to visit this fascinating place, but the question is for how long?



And no one knows why the village was abandoned. But around 2500 B.C., the Orkney Islands became cooler and wetter. Many theories speculate about how the people of Skara Brae met their fate; the most popular ones involve a violent storm.

I personally hope that the Scottish Government will do all they can to preserve this amazing place.

-o0o-



In 1864 the small well organised expedition led by **John Graham MacDonald**, crossed the Gregory River at South Lat. 18° 50' / East Long. 139° 20'.

A man of many careers, MacDonald was an irrepressible entrepreneur, an adventurer. As an explorer, a pioneer pastoralist, a forward looking businessman, a parliamentary candidate, a magistrate and a Gold Commissioner, MacDonald's name was known throughout Queensland and to most residents of the far north. His enterprises had a huge impact on the Gulf country.

MacDonald was born in NSW in 1834, later becoming a farmer and grazier near Geelong. His elder brother also schooled him in basic surveying during the Geelong years. He did well there, became a Justice of the Peace and took a prominent part in local affairs. Being an ambitious young man, he looked at the opportunities opening up to the north of NSW. Queensland was about to become a separate colony.

The young man sold up to join his brother P. F. MacDonald, already established in Queensland. On the way he dropped in on the gold rush at Canoona, close to where Rockhampton now stands. He does not seem to have stayed long there.

Then MacDonald got land fever, hurrying to take up vast tracts in the headwater country of the Einasleigh, the Lynd and the Burdekin Rivers. This was part of the big land rush which took place before the separation of Queensland from NSW on December 10, 1859. The race for land was spurred on by the creation of a new colonial government which was about to change all the rules on settlement and land holding.

The allure of this wild country and the excitement of exploration, was a far cry from the more settled and comparatively tame areas in Victoria. MacDonald joined an expedition 1861, to assist Dalrymple, who was employed to explore the Burdekin Valley.

Always thinking big, MacDonald took up large stations in Kennedy and Cook, including the famous Carpentaria Downs. This he did in association with Sir John Robertson. This cattle station was the most northerly in Australia at the time and the place from which the Jardine Brothers moved through the Peninsula with their stock.

Ever restless and looking for more business opportunities, 1863 saw his involvement in a company with Captain Robert Towns, founding father of Townsville. He became the managing partner.

Two colleagues from Towns and Co. went off with MacDonald on August 11, 1864, to explore the Albert and Gregory Rivers. He led the party of three (two white, one black), seventeen horses and provisions.

They crossed the Copperfield, cut over the Robertson River and struck south west to the Gilbert, which they followed north, leaving the site of Georgetown to the east.

MacDonald named the Langdon River as he travelled and then tracked west across the Gulfland to meet the Gregory.

Doing it the hard way, slogging through the red dust and scrub, they must have been pleased to hit the Gregory at this delightful place.

They then rode north for a few miles below the Gregory's confluence with the Nicholson. A depot was set up there and MacDonald proceeded to mark an area of about 1,000,000 acres, which was subsequently subdivided into a number of large stations. The first of these was named Floraville.

Towns and Co. were merchants and shippers, who passionately believed that northern Queensland was ripe for development by their company.

'... Dreaming of a flourishing port (on the Albert River) close to the Asian markets and closer to world markets than the older colonies. During 1865 ... those dreams were to be realised.'

They were men with 'a vision splendid' and their dreams continued with their successful shipping ventures. The new runs in the Gulf had to be stocked and the schooner Jackmel Packet of 115 tons, laden with supplies and men, arrived at the Albert in June 1865 '*... Her wide assortment of cargo included, pigs, dogs, fowls, houses and stores, drays and rations of rum and other spirits ...*' There they founded Burketown.

MacDonald himself, as many before and since have done, failed in his pastoral gambling and the stations he took up with Towns were abandoned.

However, with his usual resilience he retrieved his situation by going into the public service in 1872 and making a new career. In that year he became Gold Commissioner at Gilberton on the Etheridge Gold Field, and then was appointed a Police Magistrate, first at Charters Towers, then Springsure, Bowen, Townsville and Warwick. His last appointment was to south Brisbane in 1904 and from that position he went into retirement in 1905.

He died in 1918 aged 84 years, a remarkable man who made a remarkable contribution to **Australia**.

