



Crest Badge of a Member of Clan Hunter

# hunters' halloo

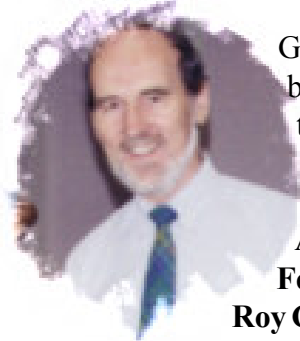
Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

October 2002

Vol 3,8

## Inside this Issue

- 1** *Editor's Note*
- 2** *Message from the Chief*
- 2** *Wild Boys of the Goulburn Part 2*
- 3** *Fergus Photos*
- 4** *Fergus Entertainment*
- 5** *More Fergus Photos*
- 6** *Supper after the Games*
- 7** *Maxville and Montreal*
- 8** *Newsletter by e-mail*



Greetings to all. Another successful "Games" season is behind us and Christine and I have had a wonderful time chatting with those who dropped by the tent in Maxville, Montreal and Fergus and we are pleased to report three new members signed up on the spot. A big hearty welcome to **Donald Bertson Noels of Fergus, Leon George Hunter of Wiarion and Roy Clinton of Metcalfe.**

This year we only managed those three Games due to our hectic summer schedule. Christine and I were fortunate enough to visit the Greek Islands for two weeks, spend two weeks with friends in California, another week with friend at a summer cottage in Canada's wilderness and then become host for a month to family visitors from Scotland. Now we need to concentrate on next year's Fergus Gathering when our Chief Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston will be in attendance. In the last newsletter I included a tentative schedule and already we have had to amend it due to some requests from the Fergus Games Committee. The Clan meeting and meal at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Centre, Guelph has been switched to Saturday 9th August 2003. Please check the new schedule.

*Tom*

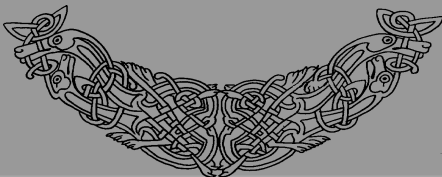
## *Visit of Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston 2003*

Here are the revised plans for the visit of our chief Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston in **August 7, 8, 9, 10, 2003 (NEXT YEAR)**

Preliminary plans include...

- |                            |             |   |
|----------------------------|-------------|---|
| - Sponsors Reception       | 7 Aug 2003  | Fergus                                  |
| - Fergus Tattoo & Lighting | 8 Aug 2003  | Fergus                                  |
| - Fergus Highland Games    | 9 Aug 2003  | Fergus                                  |
| - Clan Hunter reception    | 9 Aug 2003  | Ramada Hotel & Conference Centre Guelph |
| - Evening entertainment    | 9 Aug 2003  | Fergus                                  |
| - Kirkin' o' the Tartan    | 10 Aug 2003 | St Andrew's Presb. Fergus               |

A limited number of rooms has been held by the Ramada Hotel and Conference Centre, Guelph for members wishing to attend the gathering. Contact the Ramada directly at (519) 836-1240 to book one of the Clan Hunter rooms. However there are lots of alternative accomodation at Fergus (please refer to the accomations list provided with the last newsletter) Please consider attending this event as we would like to have a great turnout to support the chief and put on a good show at Fergus.



September 2002

Dear Clansfolk,

We have had a very good summer with Clan members visiting Hunterston Castle. Following the comments at the Gathering about the state of the walled garden and the lawns, I have this year arranged for the lawns around the Castle to be mowed. It has had the most dramatic result. The lawns are now looking very well maintained and are a credit to our newly restored Castle. We have also managed to get the lawns in the Walled Garden cut this year. Anyone visiting will now be able to walk all round the Walled Garden and look at the ancient Hunter Yew. Despite the rain we have had a wonderful year for the bluebells and you will find photos at [www.clanhunter.com](http://www.clanhunter.com) shortly of the improvements. One of my brothers, Angus, who is a keen gardener and is very interested in the Walled Garden, has started a maintenance programme this summer, which will continue.



On September 1<sup>st</sup> we had our annual Open Day at Hunterston Castle which was a great success attracting 280 visitors. Many of the visitors commented on how well maintained Hunterston Castle was and how fortunate we were to have such a wonderful building as our Clan home. My many thanks go to the members of the UK Clan Association who helped before during and after, Robert Hunter, Clan Officer, Ellen Hunter, his wife, Peter Hunter and his brother David and of course Mary Ross, her daughter Christine and grandson David. It was an excellent team and the day went very smoothly. It is always such a pleasure to let people visit Hunterston Castle as it holds such a special place in Scottish History.

It will be, for those in the USA, a sad month with the remembrance of the terrorist attacks that have so profoundly affected so many. Our thoughts are with all those who lost their lives and their relatives and friends.

Yours aye,

Pauline

## **The Wild Boys of the Goulburn** (continued from July edition)

*People Magazine, September 12, 62*  
*The boisterous Hunters tamed Victoria's toughest country*  
By Francis Murray (part2)

### **Blazed a new trail**

Despite their sporting activities and frequent visits to town, the Hunters worked hard on their runs and Alexander constantly probed the Victorian Alps for new runs. In 1841 one of the major Victorian problems was to find a land route from Melbourne to the rich country found by Angus McMillan and named Gippsland by Count Strzelecki.

With two white men and an aboriginal

named Pigeon, Alexander forced a way through the formidable Barkly Ranges (which he called the Snowy Mountains) to blaze a trail from Mansfield to the Macalister Valley and the infant settlement at Port Albert.

When word of the exploit reached Melbourne, Crown Lands Commissioner Tyers was instructed to report on the route. For two weeks Tyers' well-mounted party battled through the dense scrub and deep gorges. For much of the time they were hopelessly hushed among the precipitous mountains and thick forest. With all horses except one dead, their clothing torn to rags, and reeling from exhaustion and near-starvation, the party stumbled on a cattle pad. It led to one of Hunter's outstations and the salvation of the party. Tyers reported that Hunter's track was impassable.

This prompted ugly rumours that Alexander had never reached Gippsland by the route he had claimed. He was so incensed that, with James Campbell, Hunter, and a man named Hourdon, he followed his blazed track again in 1844.

### **An official apology**

On reaching Gippsland, the party called at Tyers tendered profuse apologies, but, before Hunter's track was used as a stock route, an easier track to Gippsland had been found. Although Alexander obtained a grant of the (later) noted Tarwin Downs station in South Gippsland, he sold his option for £ 60 and returned to Devil's River. In 1846, trouble between the Scottish shareholders and the local management resulted in the company being wound up. The Hunter brothers were left without a station. They went to South Australia,

**Continued on page 8**

# Fergus Highland Games

Below:

*Matt, Kay and Denis Hunter visit the Clan Hunter tent at Fergus*



*Andrew and Lizz drawing Clan Hunter and Clan Ross together.*



*Old friends catching up with all the latest news around the Clan Hunter tent*



# Entertainment at the Fergus Highland Games

*Jennifer Rowlands Steals the show*



*Two Thirds of Callasaig*



*John Allen Cameron  
Struts his stuff in the the main tent.*

# Fergus Highland Games



*(Left)  
Donald  
Bertson Noels,  
a brand new  
member, in  
Hunter kilt  
and "Men in  
Kilts" t-shirt.*



*(Above) New member Leon Hunter signs on the dotted line*

*(Right)  
They  
must  
have my  
size  
somewhere  
in here!*



*(Above) Three generations of Hunters checking out the clan tent. Christine and Nicol in front*



*(Right)  
Don Hunter  
our Clan  
Treasurer  
shows off  
his new kilt*



*(Left)  
Hunters assembling  
for the clan Parade.  
Jennifer and Robert  
Hunter of Toronto  
up front carrying the  
banner under the  
watchful eye of  
Grandpa, left  
(Robert Hunter of  
Toronto)*

# *Supper after the Games*



***And a good time was had by all.....***

*26 Clan Hunter members gathered to have supper and share some fun and fellowship together at the conclusion of the Fergus Highland Games.*

# Maxville and Montreal



Christine, Lizz and Tom setting up at Maxville



(Left) William (Bill) Jones pays us a visit at Maxville.



Above: New members Roy and Zoe Hunter with Tom and Christine at Maxville



Above: The "March Past" at Maxville



Christine and Lizz staffing the tent at Montreal



Above  
The smallest drummer at Montreal?

## Newsletter by e-mail

Have you switched to the new electronic format yet? Did you even know you had an option? Well in case your answer is no, let me tell you that we can now offer your newsletter in full colour sent to you by e-mail. 30% of our membership is now accepting their newsletter in this manner and reports to date tell us everyone is delighted. If you want to march into the 21st century with us simply send an email to this address [thunter01@rogers.com](mailto:thunter01@rogers.com) and include your mailing address or membership number so that we can identify who you are. In the subject line type "Sign me up" and leave the rest to us. If you should decide you want to go back to hard copy just let us know and we will switch you back. Easy right?

## **Continued from page 2**

where they established Moorak and other runs around Mt. Gambier.

Andrew Francis joined his brothers at Mt. Gambier in 1850, shortly before John sailed for the Argentine, where he married. He died in a cholera epidemic in 1868. William Ferguson, the youngest brother, came to Moorak in 1851.

A cripple from birth, William was not a rider, although an expert driver, but Andrew had served in the Cape Mounted Police and in the Victorian Police before going to Moorak. There he soon rivaled his older brothers as a fearless horseman either with or without a saddle..

### **Tragic wild bull ride**

Living up to the family reputation for daring, Andrew attempted to ride a wild bull, bareback, in a stockyard. He was thrown and gored so badly before the infuriated bull could be driven off that he died of his injuries on September 24, 1854.

About 1864, the surviving brothers disposed of their Mt. Gambier holdings, Alexander went to South Africa to engage in sugar production, while William elected to become a planter in Fiji. James sailed with his younger brother for the trip.

Impressed by the prospects in Fiji, James decided to settle there but found it necessary to return to Australia to wind up his affairs. He was unlucky in his choice of a ship for the passage home.

After sailing, the captain revealed himself as a chronic drunkard. He had neglected to take on sufficient stores and by drunken reckoning laid an erratic course through the South Pacific. With food desperately short, the ship was virtually lost at sea.

In those desperate straits, James took the law into his own hands. He clapped the captain in irons and put the mate in command after having ordered him to

find the nearest landfall. With the entire complement in the last stages of starvation, the ship sailed into Twofold Bay.

Abandoning the Fiji project, James entered the stock-and-station business at Penola (S.A.) but later retired to a farm near Warragul where he died in 1889.

After six years in South Africa, Alexander returned to Victoria to become Director of Police Remounts. To secure a supply of good troop horses, he arranged a partnership with two high-class bush riders, Peter Snodgrass and Cuthbert Fetherstonehaugh, to hunt brumbies. Hundreds of these gone-wild horses roamed the rugged, mountain country between the Goulburn River and the top of the Great Dividing Range. They mustered in small mobs of about eight good stock mares and their progeny, bossed by a runaway thoroughbred stallion with a cunning old mare as chief consort. She could smell a trap a mile off.

### **Brumby round-up**

For two months Fetherstonehaugh camped in the Yea and Flowerdale districts, studying the habits and runs of the best mobs. The partners then built strong stockyards with long hidden wings leading to the sliprails.

With three expert, if reckless, riders on their tails, the brumbies were rushed between the concealed wings and into the yard. They were ridden on the spot, before being driven to Melbourne for final handling.

The partners caught more than 150 brumbies in the ranges, but their prize capture was the brumby king of Flowerdale. He was a big piebald stallion, which, as Ahdelkader, became the pride of the Cobb and Co string on the Melbourne-Kilmore run. Alexander bought a 3,840-acre station near Cranbourne, and held it for a few

years before selling, to visit Scotland. While abroad, he completed negotiations to buy a farm near James' holding at Warragul, but he did not live to enter into possession. While returning aboard S.S. Tongariro, he died at sea on November 16, 1892. Only the crippled William then remained of the five Hunter brothers who came to Australia. During his 25 years as a planter in Fiji, William had several narrow escapes from death. One night a dozen natives crept into his bungalow to kill him. His guns were beyond reach, but his crutch was at hand.

When he retired, William returned to Victoria to live with one of James' sons on the Warragul farm. There, on March 9, 1906, he died, closing the epic of the five Hunter brothers' pioneering in Victoria

## **Visiting Hunterston Castle**

All Clan members may visit Hunterston Castle at any time by prior arrangement. Please try and not visit at weekends if at all possible.

To arrange a tour please contact our Keeper and Guide,  
Mary Ross,  
East Wing, Hunterston House,  
West Kilbride, Ayrshire, Scotland.  
KA23 9QG.

Telephone: 44+ 1294-829752. Mary has an answering machine so please leave your name and contact phone number.

Send your submissions  
for the Newsletter to  
Tom Hunter  
61 Downing Crescent  
London, Ontario  
N6C 3C7

Tel (519) 681-4101  
e-mail [thunter01@rogers.com](mailto:thunter01@rogers.com)  
WEB [www.clanhuntercanada.com](http://www.clanhuntercanada.com)