

Spring/Summer 2025

# MACAULAY MATTERS

Bringing Our People Together

## THE CHIEF'S CORNER

*Joan McAulay*

Greetings Clan Members!

As we move towards summer it's an opportunity to look back on January that's had some exciting moments.

In January Doug and I had a stopover in London and our hotel was only a block away from Westminster Abbey. We took advantage of the opportunity to seek our esteemed MacAulays and had a grand time (read about it on the next page).

Also in January my cousin Chris, who is on the Board of the Elrose Library, asked me to come and speak to the community at their Robbie Burns' Day lunch. It was a chance to return to the town where I went to school from K-12. It was a fun weekend (except for the weather). I met up with some former classmates, my kindergarten teacher and people from my home community of Coteau View. Hopefully I represented our Clan well.

In looking forward, Organiser Mary Jane and her team have been doing incredible work on next year's International Gathering in Buncrana, County Donegal, Ireland. Go Wild in Inishowen! Registration will open on 1 July 2025 so start your plans to visit Ireland.

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*This is your newsletter. We welcome interesting stories and pictures. No limits to your creativity! It's about sharing everything MacAulay.*

[clanmacaulay.org.uk](http://clanmacaulay.org.uk)

Clan MacAulay  
Association



*DANGER IS SWEET!*

# The Chief Visits Westminster Abbey

by Doug Doughty

Thomas Babington  
Lord MacAulay  
Memorial



On January 4<sup>th</sup>, Chief Joan McAulay paid a visit to Westminster Abbey, with the goal of finding the memorials for Zachary MacAulay and Thomas Babington MacAulay.

Upon entry into the Abbey, we were immediately struck by how incredibly vast it is inside and decided to ask for some assistance in finding the location of Zachary's memorial and Thomas Babington MacAulay's resting place, so we approached the tour desk for directions. We were greeted by a manager named Gareth who was most accommodating and kindly took us personally to find them.

As we walked around inside the Abbey, Gareth was very friendly and was filling us in on various aspects of the Abbey. During the course of our guided tour, the topic of the movie "The Stone of Destiny" came up. If you aren't familiar with the story, the short version is that four Scottish University students managed to steal the stone in 1950. Gareth said it is the only movie that has ever been allowed to film inside Westminster Abbey. We had assumed that it could be a point of embarrassment or at the very least a sensitive topic, but Gareth was very familiar and seemed to enjoy talking about it; he even mentioned that our discussion had made him want to rewatch the movie. It was amusing to learn that the door the four University students used to enter the Abbey is now reinforced each night by a long metal bar. And the Coronation Chair was moved from its original location to where it is now resident. Unfortunately, you can't get too near the chair itself.

We first found Thomas Babington MacAulay, who was partially concealed by a very large Christmas tree. He's buried in an area called Poet's Corner.

The text of Thomas Babington MacAulay's marker reads as follows:

"Thomas Babington Lord MacAulay, born at Rothley Temple, Leicestershire October 25, 1800. Died at Holly Lodge, Campden Hill, December 28, 1859. His body is buried in peace, but his name liveth for evermore."

Then we began the search for Zachary, and even Gareth was a little stumped. But after a few questions from Gareth to some of the other staff, we were able to find Zachary's memorial. It's in an area called the Belfry, which is located by the Western door, directly across from where Coronation Chair is now located when not in use. It is at the end of the Nave, not far from the Unknown Warrior memorial. Interestingly, the Belfry was roped off, as they were using that area for storage while some restoration was being performed, but Gareth granted us access.

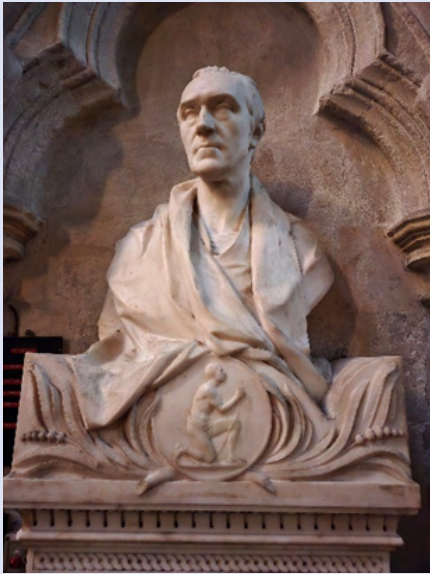
[Continued page 3](#)



## The Chief Visits Westminster Abbey

Continued from page 2

### Zachary MacAulay Memorial



The text on Zachary's memorial reads as follows:

"In grateful remembrance of Zachary MacAulay, who during a protracted life, with an intense but quiet perseverance which no success could relax, no reverse could subdue, no toil, privation or reproach could daunt, devoted his time, talents, fortune and all the energies of his mind and body to the service of the most injured and helpless of mankind; and who partook, for more than forty successive years in the counsels and in the labours which, guided and blest by God, first rescued the British Empire from the guilt of the slave trade; and finally conferred freedom on eight hundred thousand slaves. This tablet is erected by those who drew wisdom from his mind, and a lesson from his life and who now humbly rejoice in the assurance that, through the divine redeemer, the foundations of all his hopes he shares in the happiness of those who rest from their labours, and whose works do follow them. He was born at Inverary, N.B. on the 27 May 1768: and died in London on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 1838."

When you visit the Abbey, you'll notice that the Stone of Destiny, or the Stone of Scone, is not held within the Coronation Chair. It's on 'loan' to the Scots and held at Edinburgh Castle and only returns for the Coronation of a Monarch, which takes place in Westminster Abbey. Gareth shared with us that when the Stone was brought down to London for Charles III's Coronation, three white panel vans left simultaneously from Edinburgh to reduce the risk of theft.

After we visited Zachary, we thanked Gareth and set off to tour the Abbey. It was a very emotional visit, and we definitely recommend that if the opportunity presents itself, that you also go and visit. And if you haven't seen the movie "The Stone of Destiny," it is certainly worth a watch and is based on actual events. Even better, read the book *The Stone of Destiny*, written by Ian Hamilton, one of the four students who reclaimed the Stone for the Scots.





# New Members

**A very special welcome to our newest members!**

Adult Membership:

Allison "Allie" Nicole Grathoff, Brownstown Twp MI  
Michael "Mike" Edward Tomshack, Vermilion OH  
David "Dave" Edward Kidd, Homeworth OH

Family Membership:

Austin David & Devin Page McCully, San Antonio TX  
Douglas "Doug" Richard McCauley, Sacramento CA

Lifetime Family Membership:

Rebecca Marie Reim, Reedsburg WI

## Clan Commissioners



## Seeking New Clan Commissioners

&

## Announcing the Role of Clan Representatives

One of the many ways to connect with others who have shared ties to Clan MacAulay is to attend one of the literally hundreds of Highland Games, Scottish and Celtic Festivals held annually around the world. If you're not already aware of ones in your area, a simple Google search will uncover them (or reach out to me and I'll help you find them). And a great way for our Clan to connect with people who may share MacAulay (and the half-dozen other varieties of the name) genes, is by being represented at these events. We are fortunate to have about two dozen Clan Commissioners and Clan Ambassadors throughout the world to be the face of the Clan at these events, but we can always use more.

To help attract new faces to these roles, we are pleased to announce a new position of **Clan Representative**. While we see the role of Clan Commissioner as being envoys for the Clan on a regional, somewhat long-term basis, the Clan Representative may just be the Clan's face or representative for just an event or two in their area – annually as their schedule and interest allow.

If you have any interest in or questions about becoming either a Clan Commissioner or Clan Representative, please reach out and I'd be happy to answer your questions and provide more information.

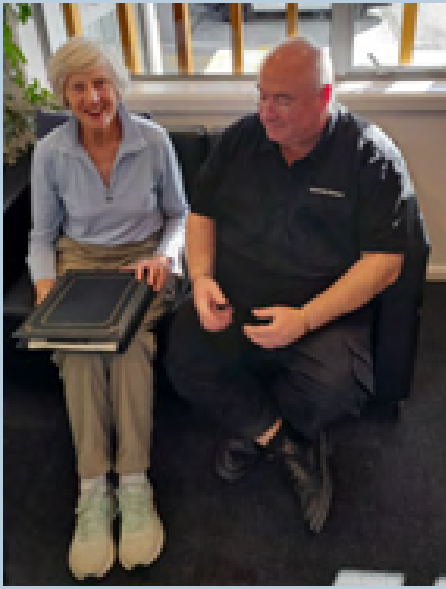
**Bill O'Reilly, Clan Commissioner Coordinator**

**Clan Commissioner for Michigan**

**[billoreilly3@gmail.com](mailto:billoreilly3@gmail.com)**

**734-646-5038 USA mobile**





Robert Macaulay  
of the Macaulay Motors  
Family



Mr. and Mrs. MacAulay,  
Carwyn's parents; Ruth  
Cooper; Camille MacAulay;  
Antoinette MacAulay



Ruth Cooper; Mr. MacAulay;  
Carwyn James MacAulay;  
Richard MacAulay;  
Antoinette MacAulay

# SEARCHING FOR MACAULAYS: McAULAYS: McCawleys

By Ruth Cooper, NZ Ambassador

In early March Bruce and I decided to go to Stewart Island/Rakiura, renowned for its natural forest, endangered bird life, especially a unique dotterel called pukunui, (only 117 left in the world), delicious blue cod, and crayfish. To get there we drove from Christchurch via the Catlins a rural area with sheep, dairying, nature walks, and petrified forest at Curio Bay, to Invercargill for one night.

I was determined to meet as many MacAulays as I could find, so visited the local library to check their Invercargill phone directory and rang six of the numbers, leaving messages about the Clan with three of them and having success with one of them who gave me her brother's number to see his interest.

Next day we flew to Stewart Island for two nights, enjoying a guided walk on Ulva Island, one of a few pest-free open sanctuaries with rare birds and plants, such as saddlebacks, rifleman, pigeons, kaka, yellowheads, South Islands robins amongst towering Rimu, Totara, and flowering Red Rata. The museum with its whaling and Maori history and the National Parks building were all most interesting and a small church with strong connections to the Norwegian people.

Returning to Invercargill for the New Zealand National Pipe Band Competitions 7-9 March, I had previously set up meetings with two MacAulays. The Macaulay Motors family business has been going for 90 years and here I met Robert Macaulay in the Parts department. He is one of the family members and his forebears came from Wick in Caithness. He has a brother in UK and a sister in Arrowtown to whom he was going to give my name and contact.

The next day when entering the Queens Park Grounds to pay, I spoke to one of the women, explaining I was the NZ Ambassador of the MacAulay Clan and she said I am Camille Macaulay and immediately took us to meet her husband Carwyn, her daughter Antoinette and son Richard, the young piper smartly dressed in his Royal Stewart kilt of the City of Invercargill Highland Pipe Band. Later I learnt their band won their division. Carwyn's parents were also in attendance. It was most satisfying to meet this lovely family and watch Richard perform. There were 17 pipe bands from around NZ including two from Australia in the competitions and the international adjudicators were Paul Turner from Scotland and Pipe Major Terry Lee, one of the most prominent and successful pipe band leaders in the world, from Canada. Bruce and I really enjoyed the precision and quality of



Richard MacAulay,  
10-year-old piper



Ruth Cooper and Barton  
McCawley going through  
some of his family history at  
the Transport, a museum in  
Invercargill  
March 7, 2025

Continued from page 6

what we saw and heard. Sadly, the Street March on Saturday had to be cancelled due to torrential rain but competitions proceeded.

Our next planned meeting was with Barton McCawley who is already a member of our Clan. We met at the internationally famous Bill Richardson Automotive Museum which we did not see as we were so busy exchanging stories of his family from England to Durban, South Africa where Barton was born, to New Zealand six years ago with his wife Belinda and three children. They love New Zealand. He works in the transport industry and Belinda has trained as the first female stonemason in New Zealand. Through his DNA Barton is still trying to trace his family history with the help of Lucas McCaw and others. Barton plays the bagpipes and side drum and he and his wife are competitive archers in their spare time. It was a pleasure to finally meet this special man.

A worthwhile visit to Invercargill.



City of Invercargill Highland Pipe Band, including 10-year-old Richard MacAulay, piper. The band won their division.

MacAulay FOREVER!

MacAmhlaidh zu BRATH!



## Through Endurance We Conquer - Make Progress

by Sean McAuley

Recently I took a notion to own a luxury watch. Excited by the prospect but unable to justify the exorbitant prices of the leading Swiss brands I started to explore the several 'micro brands' in the market. These micro brands offer innovative design combined with excellent quality and all at an affordable entry level price. I naturally thought I might explore Irish and Scottish brands first, since I would then be honouring my heritage. After what seemed a very short time researching, the stars were magically aligned. The following day I took possession of my new watch.

The brand that caught my eye was Nomadic Watches of Belfast. The company was founded in 2001 by Irishman Peter McAuley. The name Nomadic being taken from the SS Nomadic which served as a tender transferring passengers to the great Belfast built Ocean Liners RMS Olympic and RMS Titanic, and is the last surviving vessel of the once great White Star Line. The watches are assembled in Belfast using Swiss-made automatic movements and other high-quality components. Peter takes his inspiration from the city's rich history of shipbuilding, adventure and resilience.

The model I had chosen was the Turas 914 which is, in design, an homage to the iconic Rolex Explorer. The explorers in this case being the Irish Antarctic explorers; Sir Ernest Shackleton and Tom Crean. Turas being the Irish word for Journey or pilgrimage and 914 being a reference to the 1914 Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition. Shackleton, disappointed to have not been the first to reach the South Pole, decided instead to mount an expedition to be the first person to cross the continent of Antarctica. Unfortunately for Shackleton his ship, the Endurance, became trapped by ice in the Weddell Sea and after several months, he ordered the crew to abandon ship and she sank on 21st November 1915. All efforts to reach safety proved useless and finally, Shackleton decided to attempt an open boat journey with Crean and four others to the whaling stations of South Georgia in one of the Endurance's tiny lifeboats. After 15 days of sailing through the dangerous waters of the South Atlantic they reached safety in May 1916. It was nearly two years after the Endurance had set out on its journey. Eventually all the members of his crew were rescued.

Sir Ernest Shackleton died of a heart attack during a subsequent Antarctic expedition in January 1922 and is buried on South Georgia. The wreck of the Endurance was discovered in 2022.

The Turas 914 comes in three editions – 'White Out', 'Black Ice' and 'Landfall'. The three watches together tell the story of what these intrepid explorers endured, each edition representing an important phase of the journey. I chose the Landfall. I quote from the Nomadic Watches website; "the Emerald Green Landfall edition, represents the safe return home of all 28 'Men of Endurance' on the 1914 Transantarctic Expedition."

On the back of the Turas 914 is engraved the phrase 'Through endurance we conquer', which is a translation of the Shackleton family motto 'Fortitudine Vincimus'. A very fitting motto indeed!



By Jennifer McCaulley Cornelius

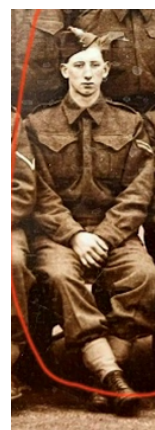
By Jennifer McCaulley Cornelius



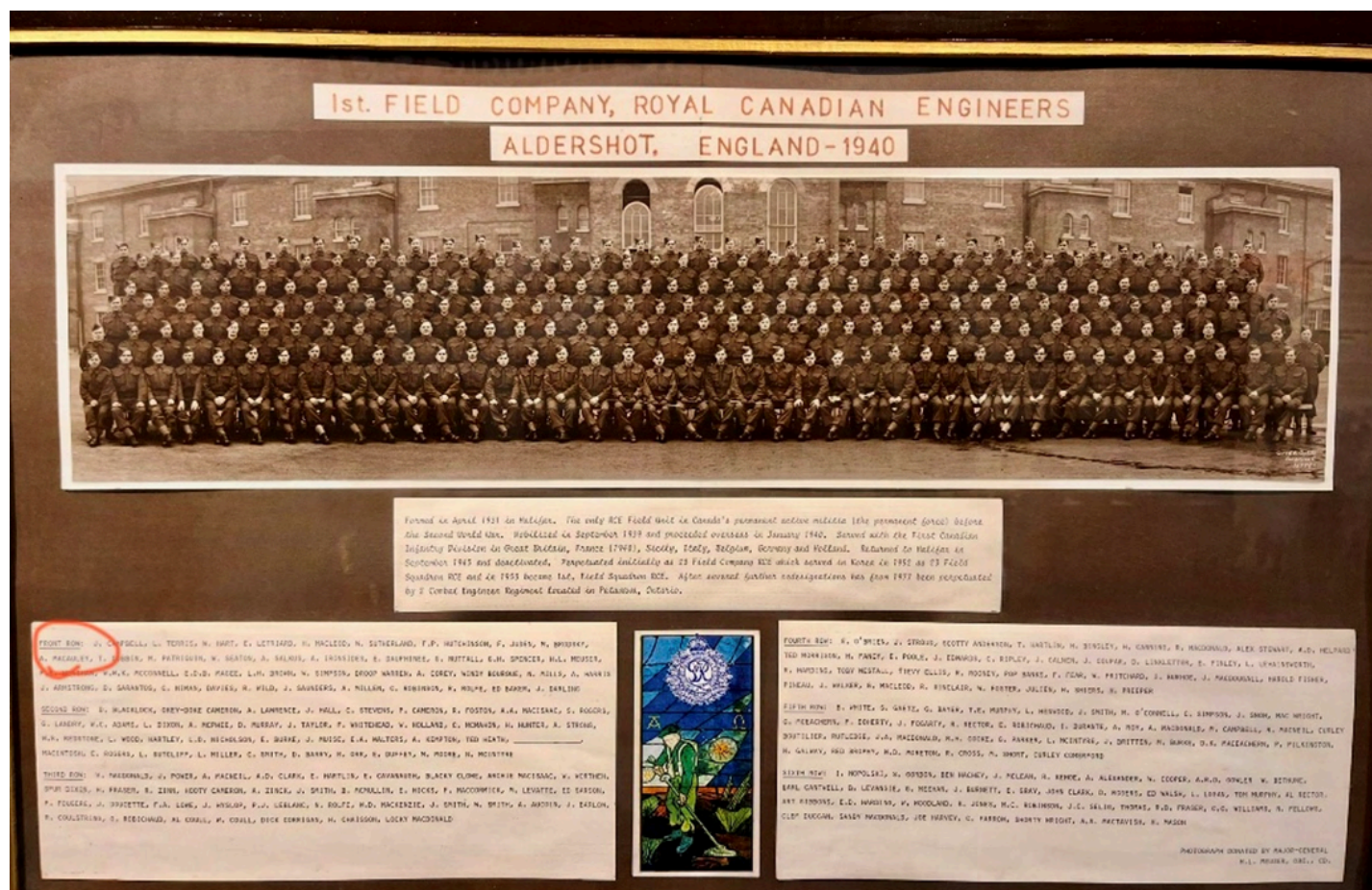
In the museum, I came across a photo from 1940 featuring the 1st Field Company, Royal Canadian Engineers, taken in Aldershot, England. Among

the faces in the picture, I spotted a distinguished-looking "A. MACAULEY."

“Formed in Halifax in April 1931, the 1st Field Company was the only Royal Canadian Engineers (RCE) Field Unit in Canada's permanent active militia before the Second World War. They mobilized in September 1939, deployed overseas in January 1940, and served valiantly with the First Canadian Infantry Division across Great Britain, France, Sicily, Italy, Belgium, Germany, and Holland. The company returned to Halifax in September 1945 and was deactivated, but its legacy lived on through several redesignations, ultimately becoming the 2 Combat Engineer Regiment based in Petawawa, Ontario, from 1977 onward.”



Although this particular “A. MACAULEY” has not yet been confirmed as part of my family tree, as a proud MacAulay descendant and veteran myself, I found the connection deeply moving. I hope this remarkable find might help someone else in our community uncover a missing piece of their family history!”





## Clan Members Enjoy Chicago's Legendary St. Patrick's Weekend Celebrations

by Bill O'Reilly



Members Sean McAuley and Bill O'Reilly first met at the 2013 Gathering in Crieff, Scotland and have been in touch ever since and connecting in person at future gatherings. Y-DNA testing later confirmed that they are distant cousins... tracing back to the County Antrim McCauleys, McAuley, etc. Sean lives in Dorset, England, and Bill lives in Chelsea, Michigan. Following up on a discussion they had at last August's Clan Gathering in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Sean flew into Detroit in mid-March. Sean saw the sights of nearby Windsor, Ontario, Bill's hometown of Detroit as well as southeastern Michigan including a nice 13 mile hike on a back county trail. But perhaps the most exciting part of Sean's week there was the weekend adventure in Chicago – a 3 ½ hour drive from Chelsea.

Two of Bill's three daughters, Clare & Cece, live in Chicago and his third, Bridget, lives in suburban Detroit. Bridget and her boyfriend traveled to Chicago as well. This would be Bill's third straight year of joining his daughters in Chicago for the craziness of the city's annual St. Patrick's weekend. Their group of about 20 started the activities early as the boat they had reserved spaces for would depart at 10:00. At about this time, the group responsible for pouring the safe food dye in the Chicago River started pouring the many gallons of dye into the river with a flotilla of small boats. In a matter of 30 or so minutes, the river became a bright green right in front of the eyes of the more than 100,000 spectators along the river and the thousands more on the many dozens of passenger boats cruising up and down the river to take it all in. A memorable event and day for all!

Connecting with distant cousins and making life-long friends are just another benefit of Clan MacAulay membership!



Photo source [Dyeing The Chicago River Green 2025 Map - Ruby Thompson](#)



John McAulay in the 1880s



Gregor Macaulay, of Dunedin, New Zealand, retired in early 2019 after a 40-year career in academic administration at the University of Otago. He has a longstanding interest in heraldry, orders and medals, and family history.

# MY MACAULAYS OF NEW ZEALAND

## From Caithness to New Zealand Part 1

By Gregor Macaulay

All eight of my great-grandparents came to New Zealand from Scotland or Ireland in the 1860s or 1870s. Although most of them were part of 'chain migrations' (either following or followed by relatives), my paternal great-grandfather, John McAulay or Macaulay (the spelling was standardised as Macaulay by his children) came with a friend, Hugh Gunn (1831-1904), on the Robert Henderson, in 1860. Both of them were from farming families in Caithness, the northernmost county of mainland Scotland, and both were Gaelic speakers. Family tradition has it that Hugh visited John some years after they had settled in New Zealand and John's children were perplexed by the strange language their father was speaking – he had not passed the language on to them.

Some clan histories say that the McAulays/MacAulays/Macaulays of Caithness were descended from the MacAulays of Ardincaple. However, my earliest ancestor traceable in the male line is John McAulay/Macaulay (his son Peter – died 1876 aged 69 – was my great-great-grandfather), who was originally from the parish of Loth, Sutherland, but moved north to Caithness, probably as a result of the Clearances.

My great-grandfather John McAulay/Macaulay (1832-1897), who had been a shepherd and ghillie in Scotland, met Ann McGregor (1839-1887) on the Robert Henderson – she was migrating with her widowed mother from Kincardine, near Stirling, to join her two married sisters in Otago. John and Ann were married in Dunedin by the Rev. Thomas Burns (nephew of Robert Burns) in 1862 and settled on a farm at Flag Swamp, near Waikouaiti, north of Dunedin; Ann's sisters and their husbands – Jane and Andrew Dempster and Catherine (Kate) and John Hallum – also farmed in the same area.

John and Ann had a family of four daughters and three sons, born between 1863 and 1879. None of the daughters had children – only one of them married, when she was in her 50s. All three of the sons married: the eldest Peter (1871-1949), farmed in various parts of Otago; Thomas (1874-1949), known as Tom, moved to Dunedin and worked as a confectioner and for the City Council; my grandfather John (1877-1952) took over the Flag Swamp farm but sold it and moved in 1930 to another farm, near Temuka, South Canterbury (and for some years had a milk round in Temuka). All three had children but amongst them had just seven grandchildren (one adopted) of whom only two (my late elder brother John and I) carried the Macaulay name. I have no children and so am the last surviving member of our family by birth with the Macaulay surname, although there are several younger family members who carry Macaulay DNA in New Zealand and Canada.

(Watch for Part II in the next [MacAulay Matters!](#))



## Fairlie Agricultural and Pastoral Show South Island, New Zealand – 21 April 2025

Despite mud and slush and cars getting stuck, the Show went ahead. It was cold but Mackenzie, Pringle, and MacAulay Clans were on show.

The horse events were a highlight and the entries in the craft and produce display always interesting. Sheep dog trials, shearing competitions, and wood chopping.

Always a large selection of sheep breeds and John Mackenzie, with whom I shared the tent, won the Supreme award for his fine Merino fleece.

Ruth Cooper NZ Ambassador



Clan MacAulay Association is a member of the Cultural Classroom, which “provides comprehensive resources to promote cultural understanding and appreciation in educational settings. We deliver authentic cultural experiences in a responsive and accessible manner. Our mission is to foster a deeper understanding and celebration of diverse cultures, enriching the educational experience for students and promoting inclusivity within school communities.”

Many of the lessons are free. Check it out!

<https://theculturalclassroom.com/s/cotland-unit/>

The kids will enjoy this YOUTUBE video:

“The Legend of Greyfriar’s Bobby.”





# CLAN MACAULAY

## HERITAGE AND SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Would making a gift to one of the Clan's Special Funds be something that fits with your sense of your family's place in the history, heritage and future of Scotland, Ireland and its wider diaspora?

The Heritage Fund offers support to projects that directly relate to MacAulay heritage and history and maintains a dedicated fund for this purpose. The Zachary MacAulay Memorial and restoration of the Conan Pictish Stone are examples of the projects Clan MacAulay has supported. The fund also supports DNA projects that are dedicated to furthering our knowledge of our MacAulay origins in Antrim and the Western Isles.

The Clan MacAulay Scholarship Fund aims to support individuals who not only excel in their chosen field, but also envision contributing to the advancement of knowledge, heritage, history, art, or science relevant to Clan MacAulay.

Your support could be in the form of a financial donation or perhaps a small legacy gift. Join us in the journey to discover and preserve our MacAulay heritage and knowledge for today's Clan and our future generations.

If interested in making a donation to either fund, please visit our [Special Funds Web Page](#).

**CLAN MACAULAY**  
**MOTTO**  
**DULCE PERICULUM**  
**"DANGER IS SWEET"**



# Clan MacAulay

## Heritage Fund





Photo Credit: Inishowen Gateway Hotel

# 2026 CLAN MACAULAY INTERNATIONAL GATHERING

## Go Wild in Inishowen!

**12-15 August 2026**

**Inishowen Gateway Hotel  
Buncrana, Inishowen Peninsula  
County Donegal, Ireland**

We welcome MacAulays of all spellings and friends, and friends of friends, to join us at our 2026 International Gathering in Ireland.

Registration will open 1 July 2025!

Watch the website for updates!

Your registration fee will include evening meals Wednesday through Saturday. It also includes the Thursday excursion and lunch, entertainment in the evenings, a DNA/genealogy session, an event-themed gift, and fun activities (and prizes!) throughout the 4-day weekend. The registration fee is the same for all attendees regardless of age, although members receive a discounted registration fee.

For more info visit [Gatherings!](#)





# Clan MacAulay Ambassadors and Commissioners

## Australia

- Geoff Derrick, Ambassador

## Canada

- Doug Doughty, Commissioner, Central Canada
- Joan McAulay, Commissioner, Western Canada
- Matt MacAulay, Commissioner, Atlantic Canada

## New Zealand

- Ruth Cooper, Ambassador

## North America

- Marty McCauley, Ambassador

## United Kingdom

- Christiane Macaulay Readhead, Ambassador

## United States

- Bill O'Reilly, Commissioner, Michigan
- Bob Macauley, Co-Commissioner, Missouri
- Chris Carpenter, Commissioner, New Jersey and Delaware
- Clare McCauley, Co-Commissioner, Arizona
- Colin McCawley, Co-Commissioner, Georgia
- Cyndi MacAulay, Commissioner, Pennsylvania
- Drew Macaulay, Commissioner, The Carolinas
- James McCauley, Commissioner, New York
- Jim McCauley, Co-Commissioner, Arizona
- Mike Macauley, Co-Commissioner, Missouri
- Patricia Ware, Commissioner, Maryland and West Virginia
- Paul Macaulay, Commissioner, So. California
- Shari Brummer, Co-Commissioner, Georgia
- Worth MacAulay, Commissioner, Massachusetts





# Clan MacAulay Executive

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Secretary Veronica McCauley

Treasurer Spencer Linington

Membership Jennifer Cornelius

Organiser Mary Jane Meischeid

Heritage Lucas McCaw

Standard Bearer Doug Doughty

Committee

- Amanda McCauley, Social Media Coordinator
- Bill O'Reilly, Commissioner Coordinator
- Colin McCawley, Historical Coordinator
- Josh McCauley, Events Coordinator
- Kathy McCauley, Genealogy Coordinator
- Susan Caldwell, Technology Director

MacAulay Matters Editor Jan Perry

Email your ideas and photos

[clannewsletter@clanmacaulay.org.uk](mailto:clannewsletter@clanmacaulay.org.uk)

## Clan MacAulay Association:

Engage and connect with the world-wide community of Clan MacAulay.

Celebrate traditions and connect with our culture, heritage, and history.

Discover and champion our Scottish or Irish MacAulay roots.

Give back to our communities through directed funding.