

A diary of interesting events in the Macmillan family

Helena Ruth Macmillan



Volume 1

1913 - 1929

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**A diary of interesting events
in the Macmillan family**

**Helena Ruth Macmillan
(née Heatley)**

**Arthur's Creek
Victoria, Australia**

Volume 1

1913 – 1929

**Editors: Ross Macmillan
David Bollen**

2012



Helena Ruth Macmillan

(née Heatley)

1873 – 1954

Preface

Helena kept her 'diary of interesting events in the Macmillan family' in thick, bound exercise books, three in number, beginning in August 1913; the last entries were made in November 1950, four years before her death at eighty-one. She wrote freely – corrections or crossings-out are rare – in a bold, clear hand, not every day but mostly every few days. It was *her* journal (the first volume inscribed 'H R Macmillan Arthurs Creek 2-8-13') kept for her own reasons. Was it read by others? Not by the children or perhaps even by her husband; there is no hint of its being brought out to resolve a family query or as a prompt for sessions of recollection. The children knew of it and that was that; Helena the caring mother was a woman who set limits – the diary was off limits.

So what of her purpose? Readers will quickly sense that life for Helena was no string of trifles. Company, outings, well chosen entertainment – she welcomed (and recorded) such yet life's core was serious. Her life, the family's, was part of a larger story, played out in time but under heaven's eye. It mattered, thus was properly a matter of record. The pen had another driver. Helena was tracking what she hoped would be achievement in the here and now. Heatleys (her birth family) had something to live up to though Helena and her siblings were given, in a material sense, little to live on; in the same sense, marriage did less for her than for others. Along with family doings, the diary would be a record of material progress – hence references to produce prices and loan re-payments. Finally, the diary was a way of talking with herself about matters of public concern. Wireless was still a wonder; news had scarcity value and there was time for reflection. The diary was an engagement with the world at large, a way of registering happenings or taking a stand: 1913-1950 – there was plenty to contend with.

Written for herself – yet quite without self disclosure or unbarred comment on others. Was she a close person, not given to intimate expression? Did she have a restricted view of what writing may encompass? Was she following a model of composition, or late-Victorian convention? The questions may be worth keeping in mind but an awareness that what starts as private may not end up so was probably the main influence. Certainly there was no *need* to keep what she wrote from other eyes and, effectively, she consented to its survival. If she had any thought of a lasting record the present project may be seen as a happy fulfilment.

Two grandsons, Ross Macmillan and David Bollen, offspring respectively of Helena's eldest son and youngest daughter, have overseen the transition from manuscript to book. Faithfulness to the original has been the object though some minor changes to the text have been made for the sake of easier reading, mainly in respect of punctuation and sentencing. Likewise there are occasional editorial interpolations; italicized names or words may be found in the Glossary. The help of Robert Freeman (another grandson) in preparation of the photographs is gratefully acknowledged.

Our intention is to complete the project with another volume or two and then to lodge the manuscript diary with the State Library of Victoria, ensuring preservation and access. We append addresses by way of inviting queries, comment, corrections or pertinent information.

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Sinn Fein – Irish Nationalist Organisation
Sonoma – home of Sophia Maud Crawford (née Heatley)
Sophy, Sophia Maude – sister of Helena
South Yan Yean – renamed Mernda
Spencer Street – interstate and regional rail terminal
Stewart, Mr and Mrs – neighbours at Cr Nankervis Road and Arthurs Creek Road
Stirling – Guy, husband of Louie Heatley
Stotts – business college
stooking – standing a number of sheaves of hay (oats) on cut end in 'pyramid' to dry
Sutherland – Bill (Uncle), husband of Annie (née Macmillan)
Sutherland family – Jim, Donald, Archie, Grace, Bill – children of Bill & Annie (née Macmillan)
Thomas – owner (?) of land at 710 Arthurs Creek Road
V.P.F – Victorian Protestant Federation
W. N. League – (Australian) Women's National League
W. Nelis – (Winter Nelis) variety of pear
Wainui – home of Emerson & Annie (née Allardyce) Heatley, Gardenvale
wattle bark – stripped from trees and sold for tanning leather
Zerchos – business college

**Ministers in Diamond Creek
 Methodist Home Mission Station and Circuit 1913 - 1953**

Alfred Coates	1910 – 1913
Benjamin Moffatt	1913 – 1916
Walter J.C. Ashley	1916
E.C. McIntosh Brown	1916 – 1919
Henry D. Ford	1919 – 1921
William H. Collom	1922 – 1924
Joshua Courtney	1924 – 1927
Bert Seaton	1927
Rev. Alfred W.R. Milligan	1927 – 1931
Rev. Charles K. Dawes	1931 – 1934
Rev. C. Preston Murray	1934 – 1936
Rev. George P. Lassam	1935 – 1938
Rev. Stanley Shepherd	1938 – 1941
Pastor George Richards	1941 – 1946
Pastor Fred Garrett	1946 – 1953

Head Teachers at Arthurs Creek State School 1912 -1952

Thomas Ferguson	1912 – 1915
Edna Davey	1915
Andrew Pitt	1915 – 1925
William Marshall	1926 – 1942
Lesley Allen	1943
John Ware	1944
Philomena Fishwick	1945 – 1948
Isobel Strapp	1948 – 1950
Bryan Baker	1948 – 1950
Audrey James	1948 – 1950
Keith Cecil	1950 – 1952

Directory of house names and addresses

Name	House name	Current address	Place
Apted, Les & Chris	Glen Ard	684 Strathewen Road	Arthurs Creek
Brennan, Bill	Fernvale	165 Brennans Road East	Arthurs Creek
Brennan, Mick	Pine Hill	1045 Arthurs Creek Road	Arthurs Creek
Cations, Mr (Sr)	(Post Office)	910 Arthurs Creek Road	Arthurs Creek
Christian, Dinnie & Alice	-	100 Greens Road	Arthurs Creek
Crawford, Hiram & Sophie	Sonoma	Seymour Road	Elsternwick
Draper, Bill & Bel	Dishleigh	710 Arthurs Creek Road	Arthurs Creek
Draper, Charles & Catherine	Charnwood	870 Arthurs Creek Road	Arthurs Creek
Freeman, Fred & Louie	Cleir Hills	Kinglake Road	Cottles Bdge
Freeman, Will & Una	Baroona	Hilderbrand Road	Arthurs Creek
Freeman, Fred (Sr) & Ethel	Kentleigh	Mine Road	Arthurs Creek
Garsed, Henry	-	Strathewen Road	Cottles Bdge
Green, Patrick & Honora	-	50 Greens Road	Arthurs Creek
Heatley, Emerson & Annie	Wainui	-	Garden Vale
Heatley, Sophy	Sonoma	Seymour Road	Elsternwick
Hempel	-	Strathewen Road	Arthurs Creek
Herbert, John & Emily	Blair Athol	192 Bannons Lane North	Nutfield
Hildebrand, Ern	-	45 Hildebrand Road	Arthurs Creek
Laidlay, Bill & Vicki	-	365 Chapel Lane	Nutfield
Laidlay, Jack	-	360 Chapel Lane	Nutfield
Limmer, Willie	Silverton	Off Bannons North	Nutfield
Mann, Johnnie	Violet Glen	1140 Strathewen Road	Strathewen
McDonald, Don & Dolly	Glen Donald	785 Arthurs Creek Road	Arthurs Creek
Macmillan, Hugh & Helena	Waitui	760 Arthurs Creek Road	Arthurs Creek
Murphy, David & Christeen	Park View	55 Brennans Road East	Arthurs Creek
Murphy, George & Rene	Eulallie	897 Arthurs Creek Road	Arthurs Creek
Murphy, Jack & Triss	White Haven	Running Creek Road	Arthurs Creek
Murphy, Joe & Annie	-	Brennans Road East	Arthurs Creek
Murphy, Pat, Mick, Dennis	-	Running Creek Road	Streamville
Murphy, Tom & Ada	Auldreekie	Deep Creek Road	Arthurs Creek
Post Office	-	910 Arthurs Creek Road	Arthurs Creek
Reid, Patrick & Agnes	Hazel Glen	325 Middle Hut Road	Hazel Glen
Ryder Leo & Carmella	-	Cr Arthurs Ck / Nankervis R.	Arthurs Creek
Schultz, Herman & Emily	-	635 Strathewen Road	Arthurs Creek
Sharp, Mr	-	535 Arthurs Ck Road	Arthurs Creek
Smale, Alphonse & Georgina	Marnoo	15 Nankervis Road	Arthurs Creek
Stewart, Cornelius & Christina	-	Cr Arthurs Ck / Nankervis Rd	Arthurs Creek
Sutherland, Archie	Inverness	551 Arthurs Creek Road	Arthurs Creek
Sutherland, Don & Violet	-	580 Arthurs Creek Road	Arthurs Creek
Sutherland, Bill & Flora	-	Bannons Lane West	Nutfield
Sutherland, Jim & Anne	Inverness	551 Arthurs Creek Road	Arthurs Creek
Thomas, Charlie	-	210 Strathewen Road	Arthurs Creek
Verso, Allan & Lena	Arnleigh	2 Bannons Lane North	Nutfield