

MIGHTY MINI MACLEODS

We are Mini | We are Mighty | We are MacLeods

Purpose

The Mighty Mini MacLeods (MMM) in South Australia established in 2015 to bring children and youth under 17 years of age with a Scottish connection together in activities to increase interaction and share a task or activity in a safe, age appropriate and familiar environment.

MMM aims

- ➔ Promote a sense of belonging.
- ➔ Facilitate opportunities for interaction and ongoing friendships.
- ➔ Acceptance and celebration of the Scottish culture.

Membership

Those of MacLeod descent, or friends of members with Scottish descent and young friends and supporters of Clan MacLeod are invited to join the activities. Principally MMMs have a Scottish connection and are under 17 years of age.

Roles

MMM President – Georgia Walters (11 years).

MMM Secretary – James Walters (13 years).

Roles will rotate as more members join.



How did Mighty Mini MacLeods begin?

The Mighty Mini MacLeods (MMM) is an initiative of the Clan MacLeod Society of South Australia. The concept was proposed in 2013 to form a group to provide for the needs of younger members of MacLeod families, both socially and as an introduction to their common Scottish heritage. When asked at the 2014 AGM about the formation of such a group, a youngster accompanying her parents to the event noted that not all Clan MacLeod children attended. She observed that it was 'boring' for them watching people sit about and talk. Seeing the enthusiasm of our young members to participate, and with input from senior members present, the committee formally accepted the concept. The Mighty Mini MacLeods was born!

MMM began as a means to:

- As an outlet for energy and enjoyment
- Foster children's acceptance and celebration of their Scottish distinction and cultural identity
- Celebrate a child's passion for Clan MacLeod, with the support of accompanying parents.





How are activities selected?

There are 4 MMM events per year. Groups meet at a venue to participate in activities, talk and share the event with one another.

Selecting activities involves members presenting ideas to the MMM President or MMM Secretary for consideration, usually at the last event of the year following the President's wrap-up speech. Those present discuss the strengths and limitations of an activity and vote on its inclusion in the annual program. Parents and kids have an equal say. Considerations include:

- What type of activity?
- Easy to get to.
- Suitability for most age groups.
- How long it takes to do and can the time be extended?
- Costs involved.
- Special gear or equipment needed?
- Individual or team involvement.
- Part of the Clan celebrations.



How we work

Parents play a significant role in whether a newcomer will come back. Newcomers need to be welcomed and feel included. The best welcomers are our own youth. We want them to own the responsibility for making every newcomer feel like a valued guest and potential friend. New members also need to hear what our MMM group is about.

'We are Mini and we are Mighty, we are MacLeods'

We have a clear purpose statement for our group. It communicates why MMM exists. There are clear aims. MMM youth share what the group is about, who can belong, what activities occur each quarter and who the leaders are. The MMMs share photos from events (with permission) and send out reminders for upcoming events.

The confidence in the MMM Scottish connection grows as our youth meet every newcomer's parent/s. Trust also grows as parents meet newcomer parents.



Meeting our Aims

We want every newcomer to leave their first MMM activity feeling welcomed, accepted and connected.

We want them to have fun and enjoy the company of other members with Scottish heritage.

We want them to come back and explore the friendships and the shared Scottish connections.

