

Passing of Margaret MacLehose wife of one of Hong Kong's Dynamic Longest Serving Governors, Murray MacLehose



In 1946 Margaret "Squeak" Dunlop met Murray MacLehose. He lived only six miles from her in Culroy, Ayrshire. She could have had little idea that she would become to be married to a political adviser, diplomat and the longest-serving governor of Hong Kong.

Margaret Murray MacLehose was, like her husband, a dynamic person who took control of receptions and events when staff failed to turn up or simply did not perform. She was an apparently an excellent cook and when she arrived in Hong Kong in the late 1950's she taught domestic science and hygiene to the Catholic Chinese and few English at St Paul's Convent School in Happy Valley

Like her husband she was a great hiker and soon developed an enormous interest in plants (her husband established the MacLehose Trail, principally, as folklore would have it, to satisfy his interest in hiking but also to monitor the progress of the new town development programme. Civil servants were terrified of Monday morning phone calls from the governor questioning progress on works after walks in the hills behind new town development sites e.g. Sha Tin). She took the plants that she had discovered to the University of Hong Kong to be identified. She ultimately had an orchid named after her: ***Cymbidium maclehoseae***. In 2004 she was awarded the Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother Medal in Horticulture.

Sources: *The London Times* and other multiple sources