

THE MCPHEE CLAN OF AUSTRALIA

NEWSBULLETIN No 3

29th November 1974

A Quick Look at Our Society. The McPhee Clan Society came into being on 3rd May 1974. Membership is open to all interested men and women, 18 years of age and over, who :

- a have surname spellings as listed in Dr E.D.MacPhee's History of The Clan, or
- b are connected by marriage with, or descended from, or adopted by, persons listed in sub-paragraph a above, or
- c are members of Septs of the Clan as sanctioned by the Lord Lyon, King of Arms.

The Aims of the Society are :

1. To act as the representative body of all Clan members in Australia in transacting Clan business with overseas organizations.
2. To encourage the research and recording of Clan histories in Australia.
3. To promote fellowship and social contact amongst members of the Clan in Australia.

Newsbulletins are forwarded quarterly to about 140 addresses, but as I pointed out in the last Newsbulletin, this number will have to be reduced by deleting prospective members who have declined to accept our invitation to join. In the first Newsbulletin I sent out a call for a permanent home for the Society and requested assistance with the secretarial work; I indicated that my duties as an Air Force Officer might prevent me devoting much time to the Society in the future. Perhaps this intimated that the Society would fold up virtually as soon as it was established and frightened some prospective members away. For this I apologise. To-day we have 76 financial members with all States except Tasmania represented. I am confident that the Society is here to stay and urgently request those of you who haven't already joined to give the matter serious consideration.

Clan Reactivation. Ostensibly we are a Clan now, but a "broken" Clan without a Chief. When a Chief is appointed we will become an "active" Clan and the Chief may appoint such Chieftains as he wishes. We must continue this search for a Chief irrespective of how long it takes for we are members of a Clan whose name has been written in Scottish History in the times of the Lords of The Isles; a Clan whose name was recorded with only twenty seven Clans in the 1450 - 1467 study of acceptable Clans of Scotland.

In Australia to-day there are a number of "McPhee" families of significant standing in the community, families whose members have distinguished records in business and community affairs, and I ask members of these families to seriously consider proposing their senior member as an armigerous candidate. Such families are entitled to this recognition and the support of such members will be essential in the future for reactivation of the Clan. Will you please consider it? I have further information available for those who are interested.

News from Dr MacPhee in Canada. The big item from Earle is that there is a very good chance that he and his wife may visit Sydney and Melbourne on a cruise ship at the end of March/early April next year. More information when we know if they are definitely coming - In the last Newsbulletin I indicated that Earle was going to Scotland to see the Lord Lyon in regard to the Clan reactivation. He did not go as he received satisfactory answers to his questions immediately prior to departure. - The Lord Lyon does not expect to create a Chief until he can find someone whose family had achieved some distinction in Scotland, and then a person who in his/her own lifetime has become distinguished. Earle has been searching for such a person and will continue to do so but, although he has prospects in mind, he does not expect to be successful in his search for a number of years. Should any of you be able to trace your family back to one of some distinction in Scotland, or know of someone who can, I will be interested to hear. - Earle pointed out that without a Chief or local Chieftains our Clan is virtually compelled to function through its Clan Societies, and asked if The Australian Clan Society would give consideration to electing a Patron. As an interim measure the Patron would virtually act as our Chieftain, and it is intended to include such a position in our draft constitution. Should any member have definite views either for or against such a suggestion please

drop me a line.

The Executive. I have been posted from RAAF Base Richmond to Headquarters Support Command in Melbourne with effect 7th January 1975. I have yet to arrange accommodation down there so after Christmas my interim address will be:

Sqn Ldr A. C. McPhee 015056
RAAF HQSC
Victoria Barracks
St Kilda Road
MELBOURNE Vic 3000

Colin Macfie has been appointed Acting Vice President in New South Wales, and his address is :

C. A. Macfie
31 Hendy Ave
COLLAROY NSW 2097 Phone 982 - 7133

Historians. Two very capable and charming ladies have accepted an invitation to become Society Historians. They are Margaret Phee, an active member of The Society of Australian Genealogists, and Norah McPhee, a trained librarian. Their addresses are :

Mrs J.B. Phee
12 Pitt Road
NORTH CURL CURL NSW 2099

Mrs A.L. McPhee
47 Bellary St
PENNANT HILLS NSW 2120

They will be pleased to receive any historical material you might wish to lodge with the Society, as well as give assistance and advice to any members who are researching their families.

General Notes. I received about a 35% response from members to the questionnaire forwarded with the last Newsbulletin. The answers were of interest and most everybody indicated a wish for periodic meetings of the Society * In Sydney several small groups of members have met for barbeque luncheons and this trend is expected to continue and expand next year * The Australian magazine "Parade" is continuing its "Know Your Ancestors" section, started years ago by the late Charles Bateson, and articles and references are generally well worth reading * I had hoped to have had a draft constitution at least mailed to members of the Executive by now but pressure of work has prevented this. The past seven months have indicated that we can function on a national basis much as we are at present and that in time local groups will form in the major cities for social gatherings, and the draft constitution will be developed along these lines. * The Canadian Societies are functioning well and have ambitious programmes ahead of them. No word from New Zealand, however, so would anyone with "McPhee" contacts over there please let me know. I'm in touch with the Swedish Society and, with the next Newsbulletin, I hope to include a copy of the most interesting letter I received from the Secretary detailing their Clan history. His address is :

Ulf Macfie Hagman
Pianovagen 22
S - 451 00 UDDEVALLA
SWEDEN

* Is anyone thinking about going to America for the Clans gathering at Grandfather Mountain in July? Be sure to let me know if you are -

Clan Paraphernalia. I have been checking on sources for obtaining Clan paraphernalia. My first (and best) contact in Scotland failed to reply! However, Society Treasurer A.L. (Sandy) McPhee had a kilt made in London last time he took his 747 over there, and being the canny Australian type Scot that he is he checked prices and quality with Christies in Sydney when he returned. He found Christies to be at least of equal quality and definitely cheaper. I went into Christies about the same time and found them a very friendly firm, interested in helping. They quoted :

Ties (modern colours)	\$2:75	and	\$3:00
Scarves	\$5:25		
54" wide cloth (ancient and modern colours)	\$7:25	yd	
Kilts	from	\$52:50	

Wall plaques (belt & buckle) 9" x 8"	\$24:50
Brass Door Knockers (b & b)	\$3 :25
Car badges (belt & buckle)	\$ 5:75
Clan Maps - Bartholomews	\$ 1:60
Johnson	\$ 1:15

The Clans & Tartans of Scotland by Robert Bain \$5 :50

Their address is: Wm Christie & Co GPO Box 5344 SYDNEY 2001
and they are situated at 125 George St opposite the Maritime Services Board.

Two members have worked out a pattern for crocheting a McPhee tartan rug and will supply details to anyone who likes to write to them :

Mrs H.L.Rutledge and Mrs V.A.C.McPhee
"Darrrian" 3 Coutts St
JONDARYAN Q 4403 DALBY Q 4405

Genealogy. I am enclosing an extract from an article in the October 'Parade' entitled "Wanting To Track Down Your Forebears?" and feel sure it will be of interest to many of you. I have virtually completed the overseas research I initiated on my family - I couldn't get back beyond about 1790 when my great great grandfather was born and spelt his name McFee - he was a crofter on Mull and his widow and six children migrated to Australia in 1838 on a Lang bounty ship. The Scots Ancestry Research Society in Edinburgh was very inexpensive (A\$10), but I had precise information as to where to look when, and they gave reasonable results. However, my best results came from a friend in Salt Lake City, Utah, who checked my family out on the microfilm records of Scotland held by the Mormon Church's Genealogical Society. I hope to enclose a paper on the Utah facilities with one of the next Newsbulletins.

A Call For New Members We urgently require new members. Would those of you who receive this Newsbulletin and are not yet members please give serious consideration to joining, and those of you who are members, as well as those who aren't, please endeavour to find new members? Your immediate family, your relations, friends and acquaintances, and even "those McPhees" down the road who you have never met are all potential sources. Please ask them, and if they are at all interested forwarded their names and addresses to me and I'll follow it up. All new members joining now will be credited with 1975 membership on paying their \$2:00 subscription. New members who have joined since last Newsbulletin are :

Mrs M.G.McGuffie	11 Dudley St	HABERFIELD	NSW	2045	
Miss C.A.McGuffie	11 Dudley St	HABERFIELD	NSW	2045	
C.D.Smythe	8 Avoca Rd	TURRAMURRA	NSW	2074	
H.E.V.Smythe	406 Thomas St	BROKEN HILL	NSW	2880	
Mrs N.C.Stewart	"Greengate"	Boronia St	BOWRAL	NSW	2576
R. McPhee	"Noondoo"	BINIGUY	NSW	2419	
G.C.McPhee	74/76 Dalgarno St	COONABARABRAN	NSW	2857	
C.S.McPhee	25 Pymble Ave	PYMBLE	NSW	2073	
Mrs L.M.Smith	98 Melwood Ave	KILLARNEY HEIGHTS	NSW	2087	
Miss Jocelyn McPhee	103 Victoria Ave	CHATSWOOD	NSW	2067	
N.A.McPhee	103 Victoria Ave	CHATSWOOD	NSW	2067	
Miss Janet McPhee	54 The Chimes	45 Macleay St	POTTS POINT	2011	
Mrs J.B.Phee	12 Pitt Rd	NORTH CURL CURL	NSW	2099	
Mrs J.R.Gilmour	6/32 Sandford St	ST LUCIA	QLD	4067	
J.J.G.McPhee	10 Park Towers	Goodwin Tee	BURLEIGH HEADS	4220	
Mrs R. Ridge	Marina Court	227 Moray St	NEW FARM	Q 4005	
N.W.McPhee	15 Dunoon St	MURRUMBEENA	VIC	3163	

In many ways I am disappointed to be leaving Sydney, there are many members and prospective members who I haven't met; in Melbourne there are many members who I have been corresponding with periodically and I will now have the chance to meet them. 1975 is a year we should all look forward to for I feel sure our Society will expand and firmly establish itself in all States during that period.

With my very best wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year

Alex McPhee
A.C. (Sandy) McPhee
Acting President

Jocelyn Gerard