

THE McPHEE CLAN OF AUSTRALIA

31st MAY 1975

NEWSBULLETIN No 5

Acting President A.C.McPhee 8 Floreat Court Syndal V. 3150 (232-6640)
Vice Presidents J.P.McPhee 15 Carmody Rd St Lucia Q. 4067 (70-7710)
C.A.Macfie 31 Hendy Ave Collaroy NSW 2097 (982-7133)
B. McPhee 3 Myrtlebank Cres Stonyfell SA 5066
Treasurer A.L.McPhee 47 Bellamy St Pennant Hills NSW 2120 (84-2257)
Secretary Mrs A.C.McPhee 8 Floreat Court Syndal V. 3150 (232-6640)
Historians Mrs J.B.Phoe 12 Pitt Road North Curl Curl NSW 2099 (93-5399)
Mrs A.L.McPhee 47 Bellamy St Pennant Hills NSW 2120 (84-2257)

Our First Anniversary The Society had its first anniversary on 3rd May 1975. On that date 12 months ago 24 of the 31 people approached decided to form a 'McPhee' Clan Society in Australia. Membership now stands at 89 - satisfyingly close to my original estimate of 100 members by the end of the first year. From my point of view it has been a hectic, interesting, occasionally frustrating, but generally heartening year, and contrary to some so called expert opinions we won't be a twelve month wonder that fades away through lack of support from its members. I have met many 'cousins' and certainly made friendships that will last. I am sorry, though, that we have not seen any State bodies form, even if only for one get together a year, for I am sure that there is much to be gained from contact with fellow members. Membership statistics are :

<u>State.</u>	<u>No contacted re membership</u>	<u>Financial Members</u>
WA	12	2
SA	2	2
VIC	25	18
TAS	4	Nil
NSW	79	42
QLD	33	24
ACT & NT	<u>1</u> (ACT)	<u>1</u>
	156	89

The number contacted being those officially contacted by the Society - I know many more have been spoken to by members but without success.

The Coming Year I can look forward to the coming year with a lot of enthusiasm (and none of the apprehension I had this time last year) as things are beginning to move in Clan affairs both here in Australia and overseas. Items for your attention are :

- (1) First Official Dinner of the Society is tentatively scheduled for Friday 25th July next. It will be held in Melbourne - negotiations for a venue are still going on - and all members and prospective members will be welcome. Any inter-State visitors who may be able to attend please contact me in early July for details. Victorian members will be forwarded a separate notice re the dinner by the end of June.
- (2) Constitution. A draft constitution has been sent to 8 members for checking prior to distribution to members for final approval.
- (3) Membership numbers can surely be doubled during the coming year but it will require help from all members to achieve this as the Society is not yet in a financial position which will permit a blanket mailing of invitations-to-join to all 'McPhees' in the phone book. So what about prodding those friends, relatives, and members of your family into joining? If you know anyone who is interested let me have their name and address please and I'll follow it up.

- (4) Subscriptions for 1975 are overdue - Have you paid yet? Its still only \$2. per member. Actually response has been quite good and my many thanks to those who have paid - I hope I can thank the rest of you next Newsbulletin.

Sale of Colonsay. Nothing to report on the sale of Colonsay at this stage. A great suggestion has come from Malcolm Innes of Edingight W S who is Lyon Clerk and Keeper of the Records at the Court of the Lord Lyon. He suggested that when a sale is eventually made a joint approach be made by the various 'McPhee' Clan Societies to purchase a small area of ground on Colonsay which could be developed as a Clan Gathering Ground - our own piece of our Homeland as it were. Ulf Macfie Hagan of Sweden went further by suggesting that the ground might be acquired at the old 'McPhee' burial ground Phairc na h' Eaglais. These suggestions are being looked at and more will be heard later I'm sure.

THE SWEDISH STORY

Ulf Macfie Hagan of Pianovagen 22, Uddevalla, Sweden is secretary of The Family Society Thorburn-Macfie which consists of descendants of William Thorburn and Jessy Macfie. The following is Ulf's story -

William Thorburn was born at Leith on 12th September 1780, his father was a merchant conducting a tea wholesaling business and William worked in the family firm. He married Jessy Macfie (born Greenock 1st September 1790) at Langhouse Inverkip on 3rd August 1813. During one of William's business trips to Sweden and Norway he had seen the estate 'Kasen' near Uddevalla in Sweden. When he heard it was for sale in 1822 he wrote from Scotland stating he was prepared to pay a barrel of gold for it - this was equivalent to 353 lbs of pure silver. Approximately six months later he was notified that his bid had been successful, so in July 1823 he set out across the North Sea in the brig 'Integrity' with his wife and 5 children; they arrived on 10th July.

In 1838 their daughter Jessie married her first cousin, William Andrew Macfie, who she had met during a visit to Scotland. They lived initially in Scotland, but moved to Sweden in 1845 and purchased an estate 'Anfasterod' close to Uddevalla. Ulf is their great great grandson.

To-day there are few members with Macfie surnames left as over the years daughters predominated in the various Macfie families. As far as Ulf knows there are no other families established in Sweden with surname spellings acceptable to our Clan - and no other Thorburn families either for that matter. Every third year the Society has a family gathering on the first Saturday in July - next one is due in 1977. At the gathering last year 103 members from 2 months to 86 years attended. The Society has been producing a quite impressive annual Newsbulletin for the past 37 years. I have 4 of the more recent copies - of course they're written in Swedish and I can't read them (Ulf writes to me in English thank goodness), however, if any Swedish scholars amongst our members would like to read them I'd be happy to lend them. Perhaps I might even learn what they say then.

Ulf has visited Colonsay twice. The last time there he took steps to repair the 'McPhee' Standing Stone in the old burial ground which had been knocked over by cattle and broken. He hopes to visit Colonsay again in the summer of '76.

News from Canada. Mrs Barbara MacPhee, Box 53, Raymond, Alberta has been appointed Canadian Clan Historian. - Robert MacPhee, 2915 Thomas St, Nanaimo, BC, is the President of the newly formed MacPhee Clan Society of British Columbia. - The Clan MacPhee of Alberta will be holding their Third Annual Meeting at Chateau Lacombe in Edmonton on 27th September next, starting at 12 noon; any starters contact Angus MacPhee, 12410-75th St, Edmonton, Alberta T5B 2C2 Canada. Phone 477-3197. - The Canadian Clan Societies are moving to appoint a SENESCHAL as custodian of the Clan pending the appointment or election of a Clan Chief. We are looking at this aspect and it is anticipated that provision for a Seneschal in Australia will be included in our constitution. The final aim, of course, is for the various Societies to elect an International Seneschal as titular head of the Clan. - There are centres of quite large 'McPhee' population in Canada and at present they appear to be concentrating on establishing Clan Societies in these centres without making any definite moves towards a National body. From the correspondence I have been receiving from these Societies they are well established and go-ahead organisations.

Dr E. D. MacPhee's Clan History. My thanks to those of you who updated the information enclosed with the last Newsbulletin re family histories. The corrections and some new content have been forwarded to Earle for inclusion in Volume VIII. Thanks here are especially due to our two Historians Margaret Phee and Norah McPhee who have put in a lot of time and effort on research work at the library of the Australian Genealogical Society and The Mitchell Library in Sydney. I hope to include some of the results of their work in the next Newsbulletin.

Earle is experiencing similar inflationary problems in Canada to those we are trying to cope with here. The current position regarding the reprinting of his history is :

- Vol VI (old Vol I & II) on sale at C\$5.50
- Vol VII (old Vol III) shortly to be on sale at (expected) C\$3.00
- Vol VIII (old Vol IV & V) yet to be printed - hoped for price approx C\$5.50

I expect to receive some copies of Vols VI and VII shortly, and will have an Australian price available in the next Newsbulletin.

General Notes. There's a good chance that we will be represented at the American Gathering of the Clans and Highland Games at Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina in July. Society Treasurer A.L. "Sandy" McPhee, wife Norah (one of our Historians) and daughter Sally are planning to attend.

Earle's grand daughter Sean is at present on a working holiday in New Zealand with another Canadian lass and they intend visiting Australia later this year when I hope we will be able to arrange for her to meet some of the Australian Clan members.

New South Wales Vice-President Colin Macfie left for a 3 month business trip to America in late March. Needless to say he had numerous MacDuffee Clan addresses for contacts over there.

I tried to catch up with Peter McPhee Australia's professional foot running champion - by mail to Stawell at Easter time - but no reply.

Names and addresses of a further 7 new members follow. Ian McPhee will thus be our last Foundation Member - A full list of Foundation Members will be produced and circulated in due course.

Printing of this Newsbulletin is still proving a problem. If any Melbourne members can arrange for stencils to be run off at their Office their help would be appreciated. I can type the stencils (though by the looks of this Newsbulletin I'm a bit too heavy handed) and the Society pays for paper etc, its complementary use of a duplicator that would assist most.

Neil, one of our Melbourne members, made photostating facilities available to us for the last Newsbulletin. My many thanks for this as I was in quite a spot then being so newly arrived in the Melbourne area.

My thanks too, to the many Society members who have given me such wonderful support and encouragement over the past twelve months. I feel sure the Society will continue to move ahead in the coming year, consolidating its position and increasing membership.

With best wishes,

Sandy McPhee

Acting President
The McPhee Clan of Australia

N.J.McPhee	15 Nathan St	Rockhampton	Q	4700
A.J.McPhee	61 Bindy St	Forrest Hill	V	3131
R.B.Macfie	5 Scott Place	St Ives	NSW	2075
Mrs R.B.Macfie	5 Scott Place	St Ives	NSW	2075
G. McPhie	'Popong'	Dalgety	NSW	2630
Miss J.C.Poole	16/262 New South	Head Rd	Double Bay NSW	2028
I.McPhee	4 Bath Place	Spence	ACT	2615