

THE MCPHEE CLAN OF AUSTRALIA

NEWSBULLETIN No 6

25th August 1975

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CONSTITUTION

Enclosed with this Newsbulletin is a copy of the proposed constitution for our Society. When the Society formed on the 3rd May 1974 its name, aims and membership requirements were decided by the original members. The full constitution now being submitted for members' consideration includes these original clauses plus a number of new ones designed to cover the needs of an active Society. Furthermore, it has recently become apparent that several changes to the original clauses may be desirable and these proposed alterations are included for your consideration along with a request for approval of the overall constitution.

The constitution is designed to make due allowance for our unique circumstances whereby Society membership is scattered throughout Australia with little or no chance of ever having a significant percentage of members assembled for a business meeting, and whereby all Society business is notified to members by mail.

The constitution provides for a "SENESCHAL" to be appointed as titular head of the Clan in Australia pending the appointment one day (I hope) of an Australian Chieftain. Seneschal is an old Teutonic title given to the major domo of the ancient houses - he was virtually the senior administrator and the logical head of the household during times of absence of the true head and his immediate family. The term "An Marischal Tighe" (the Seneschal) appears in Scottish lore when he acts as marshal of proceedings at an inauguration of a Chief. Duties and responsibilities of the Seneschal have also been detailed in the constitution.

The cases for and against any proposed alterations are outlined in the enclosed paper. Members are asked to complete the accompanying voting paper and return it in the stamped addressed envelope provided by Tuesday 30th September 1975.

Note Voting papers have not been included with Newsbulletins forwarded to prospective members.

CLAN DINNER

The first Official Dinner of the Society was held in the Officers' Mess, RAAF Headquarters Support Command at Victoria Barracks Melbourne on Friday 25th July last. Thirty seven members and guests sat down to the meal... this included seven who journeyed down from Sydney. It was an excellent dinner, held in pleasant surroundings with enjoyable company - the tartan was in evidence everywhere and several members were resplendent in kilts. C.R.(Charles) Macphee demonstrated a previously unknown (to us) ability as a Haggis maker, and also delivered the address to the Haggis on the night. A.L.(Sandy) McPhee gave an interesting account of his recent visit to the Gathering of the Clans at Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina and showed some coloured slides after the dinner. The toast to "The Clan" was proposed by W.N.(Bill) McPhee, one of our few Scottish born members. He too gave evidence of hidden talents as an after dinner speaker, and, would you believe? - a poet. Acting President A.C.(Sandy) McPhee gave a brief summary of Clan and Society developments.

Not many of the members knew one another before the commencement of the evening, but judging by the talking during the dinner and the reluctant leavers at the finish many friendships were made amongst the brand new cousins. Altogether a memorable evening.... A report from the first edition of the Melbourne Age of 25th July is attached. Unfortunately this item was deleted from the later (city) editions.

For the financially inclined the evening ran at a slight loss due to higher than expected staff charges. We are indebted to Charles for the donation of the Haggis and to another member for waiving the refund of money paid for his wife who unfortunately was unable to attend. A balance sheet for the function appears as an end item.

THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

Highlight of the International Scene this time is undoubtedly the visit of Society Treasurer Sandy McPhee, wife Norah (one of our Historians) and daughter Sally to the Gathering of the Clans at Grandfather Mountain. All three are members of our Society, and Sandy came away from there an Honorary Member of The MacDuffee Clan of America. The welcome and hospitality extended to them by the Americans was magnificent and they were guests of honour at every MacDuffee function at the Games. One of the local press reports of their visit is attached. Although Sandy claims I was responsible for talking him into the trip it was due to the arrangements made by the American Society President, Jamie McDuffie and wife Mary that the visit went off so well. Perhaps next year we'll be able to arrange with Sandy to fly us all across in one of his 747s.

Discussions are proceeding amongst the various Clan Societies for the establishment of an International Council of our Societies. It is anticipated that some teething troubles will shortly be overcome and I should have more to report in the next Newsbulletin.

Colonsay is still available for sale - details run on these lines : Colonsay 9700 acres, Oronsay 1350 acres. Colonsay House built 18th Century, with 5 reception rooms, 6 principal and 12 secondary bedrooms, 10 bathrooms. Also on the Island and included in the sale, an hotel, 7 holiday houses, 6 let farms. Oronsay has a house and a farm. Both islands have airstrips and anchorages. Now if you're thinking of buying we have members who are agents and willing to act on your behalf.... The price - a minor consideration alongside the postage and shipping charges you'll be asked to pay to complete the deal and move over there - is just £750,000.

GENERAL NOTES

Dr E.D. MacPhee's History of the Clan. I have a number of copies of Volumes VI and VII of Dr MacPhee's history available. Volume VI contains all of old Vol I plus nearly all of old Vol III, while Vol VII contains all of old Vol II.

Prices (including the staggering increases in postage) are :

Volume VI	\$4.50
Volume VII	\$2.50

Volume VI deals with the areas of Scotland and Ireland where the Clan originated, and with the dispersal of the Clan from these areas.

Volume VII deals with the lives of our ancestors in Scotland and Ireland.

A proposed Vol VIII being a reprint of the original Vols IV and V dealing with pioneer families in Canada, U.S.A., Australia and New Zealand is being held in abeyance at present.

Membership Mainly due to the Melbourne Dinner new membership figures are well up on those of the past two quarters. Total membership now stands at 118. Names of newcomers appear at the end of this Newsbulletin. Further efforts by members in increasing our membership are still required. But if you all equal Bonnie Bush's record of eight new members this year I'll be needing a full time secretary. Keep it up Bonnie....

Subscriptions from some of our members are still outstanding. Why not send an 18 cent stamp and pop your cheque in with the constitution along with your paper ?

Genealogy Sometime ago I mentioned that I would summarize the services etc provided by the Mormon Church's Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City Utah. This has been done and will be included with the next Newsbulletin.

Norah McPhee brought some new ideas back from Grandfather Mt. in regard to recording genealogical information, and will be developing these in the future. If you have any historical records or spare family trees Norah, and co-Historian Margaret Phee will be pleased to receive them. Norah's address is - Mrs A.L.McPhee,
47 Bellamy Street
Pennant Hills N.S.W. 2120.

Previously I've mentioned organisations or individuals prepared to undertake genealogical research in Scotland. In Ireland the position is far more difficult and the only addresses I have there are :

Genealogical Office	Miss Rosemary Ffolliott
Dublin Castle	Pirton House
Dublin Eire	Dundrum
	Dublin Eire

But dont be in too much of a hurry - the information in the next Newsbulletin about Salt Lake City may give you a better line of approach.

Society Elections If you approve the constitution a call will go out with the next Newsbulletin for nominations for election of Office Bearers.

Coats of Arms A copy of a recent item in 'Parade' is attached for members' reference.

Clan Dinner Balance Sheet

<u>Receipts</u>	38 dinner fees at \$10.	\$380.00
<u>Expenses</u>	HQSC Officers Mess	357.51
	(Foodstuffs 109.50	
	Wines & After	
	Dinner Drinks 89.88	
	Staff payments 158.13)	
	Pre-dinner drinks	18.70
	Invitations, Postage etc	7.19
	5 tins potatoes	1.55
		<u>\$384.95</u>
Shortfall		<u>\$ 4.95</u>

New Members since the last Newsbulletin

Miss Heather McLean	1/239 Pacific Highway	Lindfield	2070
Bruce McPhee	29 Camelot Drive	Glen Waverley	3150
Stan McFee	McFee's Rd	Rhyll Phillip Island	3923
Miss Cherry McFee	McFee's Rd	Rhyll Phillip Island	3923
Mrs Pam McAdam	17 Lambert Crescent	Baulkham Hills	2153
Colin McPhee	5 Tang Avenue	Dee Why	2099
Mrs Ken Cork	RMB 39	North Dorrigo	2453
Mrs Alex McPhee	59 Nicholson St	Dalby	4405
Paul F. McPhee	46 The Bend	Garden City Port Melbourne	3207
Mrs A.N.MacPhee	77 River Street	South Yarra	3141
Donald J. McPhee	Shady Creek Road	Nilma Nth Warragul	3820
Lester A.J.McPhee	Lebara Park	Mirboo North	3871
Mrs J.C. Rayner	8/93 Alfred Street	Ramsgate	2217
Mrs I.G.McPhee	47 Union Street	Clayfield	4011
Dr B.N.Adsett	114 Bilsen Rd	Wavell Heights	4012
Ross McPhee	5 Wendover Court	Mount Waverley	3149
Mrs Margaret Mulherin	24 Irilbarra Road	Canterbury	3126
Father Bernard McPhee	"White Friars" Park	Road Donvale	3111
Mrs Edna Kearley	9 Massey Avenue	Reservoir	3073
Mrs K.B.Eddy	80 Glyndon Road	Camberwell	3124
Mrs E.M.Maiden	Rhyll	Phillip Island	3923
J.W.Spaven	Walton Rd Rhyll	Phillip Island	3923
Ronald L. McPhee	Boorool Road	Mirboo North	3871
Mrs H.T.Hastings	288 Bacon Street	Grafton	2460
Peter Hastings	University of New England	Armidale	2351

Clans McPhee, McDuffie Join Hands at Highland Games

By MEAD PARCE

The Highland Games at Grandfather Mountain provided the setting for joining of hands between clansmen in two countries this weekend.

The Clan MacDuffie of this country and Clan McPhee of Australia met for the first time this weekend at Grandfather. The clans are members of the same family that originated on the isles of Colonsay and Oransay off the east coast of Scotland, and was known as Dhubbhith. Deviations of the name include MacDuffie, Duffy, McGuffie, MacHaffie, McAfee, MacFie, MacPhee, and Shaw.

Jim McDuffie of Hendersonville, president of the MacDuffie Clan of America, Inc., represented the American cousins while A.L. McPhee, treasurer of the Australian McPhee Clan and a 747 Pilot with Qantas Airline, represented the Australian clan.

It was at the McDuffie's invitation that the McPhee's made the long trek across the Pacific and the United States to Grandfather, the sort of Mecca like spot in the highlands of North Carolina which is somewhat the spiritual home of the Scots in America.

The American cousins, some of whose forebears go back to the early 1700s in the history of America and who fought against the Tories in 1776 are among sponsors of the Grandfather event.

There are three clans in Canada, one in Sweden, one in Australia and one in the United States.

Town Topics

One immediate goal is closer unification of all the different clans to develop a shrine on the ancestral isle. McPhee, his wife, Norah, and

daughter, Sally, were at Grandfather, Linville and the Boone area for the week.

He is co-pilot on a Boeing 747 that makes runs not only to the United States but to Europe.

The family said it was overwhelmed with the hospitality of the friendly Scots who attended the games.

"Now we want the McDuffie's to visit us," he said.

In fact, Jim and Mary McDuffie have been instrumental in bringing the clans together, and a trip to Sydney might be in the cards.

BE WARY OVER COAT OF ARMS

MANY people mistakenly believe that coats of arms belong to all persons having the same surname in common.

At law, arms are an incorporeal hereditament in the nature of a dignity, and as such the only persons who are entitled to use them are those granted the arms, and, subject to certain qualifications, their legitimate descendants.

As a result of this misunderstanding, many people have bought their coat of arms over the shop counter or from a mail order firm specialising in the field, in the honest belief that they are entitled to them.

In many cases, this belief is perpetuated by the firms themselves in that they do not require proof of the entitlement of the arms purchased. Obviously it is not in their own interests to do so, as very few purchasers could provide such proof.

Because heraldry is such a technical subject, there have also been many cases where the arms supplied do not always relate to the family name and the purchaser is none the wiser.

Recently I came across an issue of an English Consumers' Association Magazine which had looked into the trade of painted coats of arms. A number of test examples were carried out on various firms covering the surnames Sandringham, Samson, Edge, Bibby (three instances), Beresford and Adamson. Of all these, only the coat from Edge ordered by an already armigerous investigator turned out to be approximately correct.

In most of the other cases, the arms depicted were for different names — Brune for Beresford, Macadam for Adamson, Bibersworth and Bebb for Bibby, Ducey for Samson and Sander for Sandringham. It seems that in most cases the firms in selecting arms had been misled by arms wrongly described in Burke's Obsolete General Armory.

I can add to this the experience of an American friend who sent to England for a coat of arms. He cited his family name and enclosed a draft with his order. In due course he received a coat of arms. Some time later it was discovered that the arms supplied were those of a local council which happened to have the same name as his surname.

If, without proof of entitlement, one wants to buy a coat of arms as a decorative wall plaque, that is fair enough, but it is nothing more or less than a decoration. For the genuine purchaser of arms the motto must be caveat emptor — let the buyer beware.

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The Clan McPhee in search of new Chief

By PAUL HEINRICHS

It should be a braw bright night down in the RAAF Officers' Mess at Victoria Barracks tonight.

They're putting on a traditional Scottish dinner for 40 people who don't know each other very well.

But they will need to get on first-name terms rather rapidly — their surnames, *dye ken*, are all McPhee (or some name phonetically similar).

For the McPhee Clan of Australia Society, whose members are descendants of the ancient Scottish Highland clan MacFie, are holding their first official dinner.

There will be a few kilts in the McPhee tartan of red and green, with fine yellow and white stripes. And a Loyal Toast will also be in order — the clan's motto is "Pro Redi" (For the Monarch).

Among the guests will be two Neil McPhees — one the chief executive of the RACV, the other Victorian head of the Commonwealth Development Bank.

Mr. Charles MacPhee, father of the Liberal MP for Balaclava (Mr. Ian MacPhee), will give the Address to the Haggis.

And the society's treasurer, Qantas pilot Mr. Sandy McPhee, will report on his recent trip to a gathering of the Highland



Mr. Alex McPhee

Clans of America at Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina.

The organiser of the dinner is Squadron Leader Alex "Sandy" McPhee, who is acting president of the society and the originator in Australia of efforts to get the McPhee Clan going again.

He began 18 months ago after being contacted by Dr. Earle Douglas MacPhee, Dean Emeritus of the University of British Columbia in Canada, who has written the clan's history.

Dr. MacPhee aims to get the McPhees of the world to find a new chief, who has to be approved by the heraldic authority in Scotland, the Lord Lyon King of Arms.

The last chief was Malcolm MacFie, who was murdered in 1623 by one Col. Kiddo Macdonald. The McPhees then dispersed from their ancient lands of Colonsay and Oransay islands, at the southern end of the Hebrides.

Main populations of McPhees are now in the United States, Canada, Australia and Sweden, which each have clan societies. Strangely, there is none in Scotland.

Squadron Leader McPhee said it could take another five years before the McPhees found their chief — and he would be unlikely to come from Australia.

There are 47 ways of spelling the name — and people named MacHaffie, McGuffie and McDuffie are also eligible to join the clan society.