

THE MACFIE CLAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Newsbulletin No 10

3RD MAY 1976

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COMING SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

Brisbane Barbeque - 9th May. On Sunday 9th May there will be a Society barbeque at the home of Dr Ian and Margaret McPhee, 47 Union Street, Clayfield, commencing at 11a.m.. Those attending are asked to bring salads etc and trimmings, fruit, your own liquid refreshments, and, a few folding chairs if you have them. Ian and Margaret will be providing the rest - their phone number, Brisbane 268-4446. The weather men might even make an exception and provide good weather for a change -

Sydney Dinner in October. NSW Vice President Colin Macfie was so pleased with the roll up to the dinner in Sydney in February that he is organising another one - tentatively for early October. More details next Newsbulletin -

GENERAL MEETING WEEK END

The First Biennial General Meeting of the Society was held on the afternoon of Saturday, 3rd April. A dinner dance was held that night and a family picnic day in the country on the Sunday. All went off quite well, though attendances could have been better from the Melbourne members. In all, 22 members attended the meeting, there were 25 at the dinnerdance - which finished in one of the Hotel suites after 2:30 am - and 31 were at Point Leo on the Sunday; 50 participated in one or more function.

Copies of reports submitted by the President, Treasurer, and Auditor are enclosed for those who were not at the General Meeting.

Our Swedish cousins of The Thorburn - Macfie Family Union sent greetings and best wishes to the meeting - Many thanks for the kind thought Ulf. Thanks, too, to Neil and Sylvia McPhee who generously made their Point Leo home available to us for the Sunday outing.

In a brief address declaring the General Meeting open, Charles Macphee, Seneschal of The Macfie Clan in Australia, spoke of our Clan's great history and of the efforts being made by the various Societies of the Clan throughout the world to have the Clan re-activated. He called on members of our Society to maintain their active support and interest, and to endeavour to increase our membership.

Ratification of Constitutional Changes

The two items brought forward as amendments to the constitution were carried at the General Meeting, and they are now submitted to all members for ratification in accordance with paragraph 13 of the constitution. They are :

- (1) That paragraph 3 of the constitution be amended by the addition of the following note to the paragraph -  
'Note Members below the age of 18 years will be excused from the payment of membership fees but will have no voting rights.'
- (2) That paragraph 6 of the constitution be amended by the addition of the following sub-paragraph -  
'(3) Society Piper. To be appointed as required by the Society Executive.'

The first item was brought forward by the Executive to "tidy up" the position re our under 18 year old members. Quite obviously we didn't want to be faced with the possibility of babes in arms having voting rights ; however, if they were to be denied these they couldn't be expected to pay membership subscriptions. After some discussion at the Meeting on the suitability or otherwise of the 18 years as a cut off age, the motion was carried. The second item was brought forward by our Seneschal, Charles Macphee, to correct an omission in the original constitution and thus provide for our Society Piper.

Ratification of the above changes is to be considered automatic provided not more than 5 objections from financial members are received within 4 weeks of mailing of the matter for ratification. If there are more than 5 objections the Society Executive is to consider such objections and may, at its discretion, refer the disputed item/s to the financial members of the Society for a mail vote. If more than half of the financial members object to an item submitted for ratification the item is to be considered rejected.

FINANCES

The Society bank account has been transferred to the Commonwealth Savings Bank at Glen Waverley, V..

There has been an excellent response from members to the call for financial assistance which was made in the last Newsbulletin. The majority of members have paid their 1976 subscriptions and supported both the trust fund and general fund appeals. Thank you.

Trust Fund. A recent meeting of the Society Executive decided to establish a separate bank account as a trust account for the Society. It is to be used for the control of monies allocated for special purposes, and is to be administered by three trustees comprising the President, Treasurer, and one other. Neil McPhoe of Ivanhoe, Chief Executive of the RACV, has accepted appointment as the third trustee. \$221.50 has been transferred to the trust account. An amendment to the constitution to provide for this trust fund etc will be brought forward at the next General Meeting of the Society.

CLAN SOCIETY FORMED IN SCOTLAND

I am delighted to report that on 28th February last a Clan Society known as The MacPhee Clan Society of Scotland was formed at Fort William in Inverness Shire. I have very little other information at this stage except that the meeting was convened by a young Fort William solicitor, Duncan MacPhee, whose address is Rhu Mhor, Achintore, Fort William, Scotland PH33 6RN.

Duncan has already written saying he would be delighted to see any Clan members from Australia who might be visiting Scotland at any time.

The formation of a Society of our Clan in Scotland is of major importance in our drive for re-activation. Without such a body in Scotland no clan can claim to have complete representation. Our congratulations and best wishes have been extended to our Scottish cousins and we look forward to many years of close and harmonious relations with them.

INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF THE CLANS IN SCOTLAND

Preparation is well in hand for the International Gathering of the Clans in Scotland during the first half of May next year. The first week's activities will be concentrated in Edinburgh, with visitors dispersing to their traditional Clan homelands during the second week.

In announcing the Gathering the Chairman, the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, stated -

"It will be a major international event, emphasising the unique way in which the Scottish clan and family system has been maintained both at home and in every corner of the globe.....

"Events will be organised on a scale designed to attract a large number of spectators. The Gathering will provide not only an ethnic link for clansmen and their families, but entertainment and interest for many people not directly involved.....

"The major objective of this International Clan Gathering is to strengthen family ties, to foster a greater interest in Scottish history and its current developments, and to interpret ways by which our ethnic links between the Scots at home and abroad can be strengthened....."

Our Society Secretary has received quite a lot of literature re the proposed activities at the Gathering from the Organiser and from The British Tourist Authority in Sydney. Duncan MacPhee of Fort William has suggested that

The MacPhee Clan Society of Scotland make arrangements for all Macfie Clan visitors. Sandy McPhee, our Society Vice President, who doubles as a QANTAS Jumbo pilot is checking them re excursion fares etc..

Would any members interested in attending please let the Society Secretary know as soon as possible.

....and if you are planning an extended visit to Europe next year, as some members are doing this year, dont forget The Thorburn - Macfie Society in Sweden will be holding one of their Triennial Gatherings in July 1977, and would dearly love to have some Australian Macfies join them.

#### SOCIETY PIPER APPOINTED

In anticipation of ratification of the constitutional amendment regarding a Society Piper, the Executive has appointed Donald MacPhee of 21 Mudgee Street, Burwood East, V., as Society Piper. Donald has been playing the pipes for almost 45 years and has been, amongst others, Pipe Major to the 2/5th Battalion AIF, The Victorian Scottish Regiment and the Victorian Police Pipe Band; he has played at military tattoos in England and Scotland, and has been the Lone Piper playing on the battlements of Edinburgh Castle during the Edinburgh Tattoo on four separate occasions.

#### GENEALOGICAL NOTES

Further information from Margaret Phee re our early arrivals :

"Priscilla" from Liverpool for Victoria on 13th October 1852.	Angus	McPhee	34	Residence : Slifhican
	Effy	"	31	Estate : MacLeod of MacLeod
	John	"	13	(Remarks - son of Margaret McPhee -
	Mary	"	10	below - An excellent family.
	Effy	"	8	Appointed constable on board
	Christy	"	2	"Priscilla".)
"	Margaret	McPhee	60	Residence : Estate MacLeod of
	Christy	"	29	MacLeod
	Alexander	"	26	
"	Archibald	McPhee	36	Son of Margaret McPhee - above.
	Christy	"	36	
	Christy	"	13	
	Mary	"	10	
	Norman	"	8	
	Jane	"	4	
"	Donald	McPhee	36	Residence : Carbost.
	Marion	"	36	Estate MacLeod of MacLeod.
	Angus	"	13	
	Marion	"	12	
	Margaret	"	8	
	Norman	"	6	
	Mary	"	3	
	Neil	"	infant	
"Hercules" from Campbelltown for South Australia on 26th December 1852.	John	McPhee	26	Residence : Burnisdale. Estate : Skeabost.

#### GENERAL NOTES

Membership. We have our first under 18 year old members - evidently brought forward in anticipation of the 'no fees' amendment being ratified. At the time of writing membership numbers stand at 163. Can we increase this to 200 by the end of the year? I think so - and dont forget that all members of the family are eligible for membership of the Society, so what about signing the others up now instead of being a one member family ????

New Zealand and Scottish Members. I have received absolutely no response to my call for names and addresses of Clan members, descendants, or relatives in New Zealand or Scotland for likely membership of Societies of our Clan forming in those areas,

and yet I know some of you have relatives in one country or the other. So what about sending them in please - nominees will not be under any obligation to join.

Recent Social Gatherings. The first gathering of Society members in Brisbane was held on 14th February at the home of Harry and Estelle Moore at Fig Tree Pocket. Not a large roll up, but a sound start, and the coming barbeque on 9th May is a direct result of this first gathering. The dinner in Sydney on 20th February was a great success attended by 44 members and guests. I had hoped to attend with Society Secretary, Helen McPhie, (who is my wife, by the way) - as we had done the week before in Brisbane - but were unable to do so thanks to a civil air traffic controllers strike - some sort of poetic justice, no doubt, as I am an Air Force air traffic controller. Finances for the evening showed an income of \$349.50, with dinner and drink costs of \$296.20 and administrative costs of \$45.00, which leaves a credit of \$8.30 to kick the October dinner. As mentioned earlier the Melbourne socials were most enjoyable. BUT who went to dress for dinner at the Hotel and found he'd left all his clothes at home? - fastest 17 miles to and from Glen Waverley I've ever covered...AND will any of the after dinner dance group ever forget Mathew's beautiful signing of Scottish airs.....or anyone at Point Leo forget the quality of Donald's playing when he piped us home through the tall timber?

Dreghorn Macfie Badges. The strap and buckle badge of the Macfie family of Dreghorn is commonly marketed as our Clan badge - which of course it is not. Many of you will know it, or the Dreghorn crest, with the familiar 'PRO REGE' motto. We do not have a Clan crest, or badge, as none was ever registered for our Chiefs of years gone by. However, should any members wish to have a Dreghorn Macfie badge, the Society Secretary has some available at \$2 posted. They're metal and about the size of a fifty cent piece.

Clan History. The Secretary has copies of Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee's history of our Clan available at \$7 posted.

Some time ago I mentioned that I expected Sean MacPhee, Earle's grand daughter to visit Australia. Sean did, but did not make contact with the Society apart from through the post, and has long since returned home. My many thanks to those of you who offered to assist with accommodation etc if required.

New Members The following new members have been enrolled since the last Newsbulletin:

Q76-118	Mrs Rae Wear	Graceville	Q	4032	20 Jan 76
N76-149	Mrs Elva McRae	Maclean	NSW	2463	27 Jan 76
V76-150	Mrs Jean Melville	Surrey Hills	V	3127	6 Feb 76
V76-151	Robert McPhee	Vernmont	V	3133	8 Feb 76
V76-152	Mrs Carnel Cougle	Ashwood	V	3147	11 Feb 76
N76-153	Stuart McWilliam	Boggabilla	NSW	2409	17 Feb 76
W76-154	Mrs Beth Sainsbury	Kelmscott	WA	6111	12 Mar 76
V76-155	Mrs Betty McPhee	Mt Waverley	V	3149	14 Mar 76
V76-156	Miss Mabel Corless	Armadale	V	3143	23 Mar 76
V76-157	Robert McPhee	Watchupga	V	3485	27 Mar 76
V76-158	Mrs Helen McPhee	Watchupga	V	3485	27 Mar 76
V76-159	Donald MacPhie	East Burwood	V	3151	3 Apr 76
V76-160	Mrs Blanche Barbour	Kew	V	3101	4 Apr 76
Q76-161	Dr Cameron McPhee	Corinda	Q	4075	5 Apr 76
N76-162	Miss Beryl McPhie	Kingsford	NSW	2032	6 Apr 76
Q76-163	Miss Lyndal McPhie	Glen Waverley	V	3150	11 Apr 76
Q76-164	Scot McPhie	Glen Waverley	V	3150	11 Apr 76
Q76-165	Miss Katrina McPhie	Glen Waverley	V	3150	11 Apr 76

My apologies for not having full addresses available.

With Best Wishes

*Alex McPhie*

Alex McPhie  
President