



The Macfie Clan Society of Australia

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MELBOURNE DINNER 25TH NOVEMBER 1976

A reminder to all Victorian members - and others able to attend - the Society's St Andrew's Dinner will be held at the Melbourne Savage Club, 12 Bank Place, Melbourne on Thursday 25th November from 7:15 pm onwards. The deadline for notification of attendance is Monday 22nd to Secretary Helen McPhie. Cost is \$12 per person.....No limit to the number of guests per member.

REPORT FROM CHARLES MACPHEE SENECHAL FOR THE CLAN MACFIE IN AUSTRALIA

Charles made a trip to Canada and Scotland earlier this year. The following is a brief account of the trip -

"During my recent visit overseas I made contact with the Scottish and Canadian MacPhee Societies, called upon the Clerk of the Lyon Court, and visited our traditional homeland, Colonsay.

In Vancouver I was entertained by Dr Earle and his wife Jenny, a very friendly couple. Earle and I had two lengthy discussions on Clan matters and although we hold divergent views on some subjects we respect each other's opinions. I am sure that our face-to-face discussions will prove useful in our future dealings with the Canadian Society.

In Edinburgh I was received most cordially by Mr Malcolm Innes, Clerk of the Lyon Court, and we had a long, informal and, for me, most informative discussion on a wide range of Clan matters. Mr Innes is a most friendly man and answered my questions with great frankness. He also offered considerable advice which will prove most useful to us in the future. I am pleased to report that his answers to many of my questions confirmed beliefs we already held.

In Fort William I was entertained by Duncan MacPhee, President of the Scottish Society, and had interesting and friendly discussions with him and some of his executive and Society members. Later Duncan joined me for a few days on Colonsay. In Oban, I was entertained by Miss Keerie MacPhee, a member of the Scottish Society Executive and a most charming and intelligent lady. Keerie is the last MacPhee to be born on Colonsay and her family associations with Colonsay go back over some hundreds of years.

I had three wonderful weeks in one of the few remaining unspoiled places in Scotland, Colonsay and Oransay - one island at low tide. They have been described as 'Scotland in miniature'. Colonsay in particular is a rugged island with hills, lochs, glens and several beaches with golden sand. Oransay is the site of a Priory dating back to earliest Christianity in Scotland, unroofed for many centuries it is in remarkably good condition and is the burial place of the early Chiefs of our Clan.

There is a small but comfortable hotel on Colonsay with a most friendly management and staff and a car ferry sails to the island from Oban three times each week. While on Colonsay I met the owners, Lord and Lady Strathcona, and Duncan and I spent a very pleasant evening as their guests at Colonsay House."

GRANT OF ARMS TO AUSTRALIAN CLAN MEMBER

Recent advice from Edinburgh is that the Lord Lyon, King of Arms, has made a Grant of Arms to Victor Alexander Carpendale McPhie (Q74-013) of Dalby, Queensland. Vic McPhie has been living in retirement in Dalby for a number of years. Educated at The King's School, Parramatta, and a World War I veteran, he was a partner in the family Stock and Station Agency, McPhie & Co, in Queensland and was a well known and active member of many organisations on the Darling Downs.

This Grant of Arms is the first made to an Australian member of our Clan, it is only the third such grant to members of our Clan, and one of a very small number of Grants of Arms made by the Lyon Court to Australian members of Scottish

Clans.

CLAN MACFIE'S ARMIGEROUS MEMBERS AND THEIR ARMS

I am far from an expert in these matters and offer the following as my best information -

The first Clan Macfie member to receive a Grant of Arms was Robert Macfie of Langhouse and Aird in Scotland in 1864. The Grant was made to 'R. Macfie and descendants of his father John Macfie'. The coat of arms is the one commonly depicted in various publications as the Clan Macfie arms, the Droghorn Macfie arms, or as the arms of Macfie of Colonsay. The motto is PRO REGE. Three other members of this family matriculated from these arms. They were Robert Andrew Macfie MP of Droghorn Castle in 1867, John William Scott Macfie in 1925, and Brigadier General Andrew Laurie Macfie CB in 1926. The Lyon Court is not in contact with any descendants of this family to-day.

The second Clan Macfie member to receive a Grant of Arms was Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee of Vancouver in Canada on 18th August 1975. Earle, of course, is well known to us as the man responsible for initiating the world wide resurgence of our Clan, and as the author of the only published history of our Clan. The grant was made to 'Dr E.D. MacPhee, his descendants, and the other descendants of his father Henry Alfred MacPhee'. The motto is PRO HONORE. A nephew of Earle's, Robert Lloyd MacPhee of Nanaimo, Canada, has matriculated from these arms.

The third Grant of Arms to a Clan Macfie member is the one mentioned above to Vic McPhie of Dalby, Q'ld. The grant is to 'V.A.C. McPhie, his descendants, and to the other descendants of his paternal grandfather Neil McPhie, born in Iona Scotland in 1827'. The motto is PRO REGE.

All three coats of arms are similar, thus establishing - or retaining - the common Macfie format. However, to the inexperienced eye they can be easily distinguished between if two areas of the design are checked. The basic design carries a shield divided in half by a horizontal line, above the line is a sword pointing downwards, and below the line a galley under sail. (The galley is sometimes shown, incorrectly (?), with a furled sail).

The horizontal dividing line of the Droghorn arms is described as 'necbully' and is drawn thus -

The horizontal dividing line on Earle's arms is described as 'dancetto' and drawn thus -

While on Victor McPhie's arms the line is described as 'indented' and drawn like this -

Additionally, Earle's arms carry a spur rowel on either side of the sword, and Victor's carry a pheon (downward pointing broad-arrow head) on either side of the sword. The strap and buckle badges are all of a demi lion rampant, with Earle's carrying a spur rowel on the shoulder, and Victor's a pheon. Earle's badge and arms carry his own distinctive motto too.

No other arms were ever registered for our Clan as our last Chief, Malcolm, was murdered in 1623, when Edinburgh had little or no authority in the Western Isles, and well before the present Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland was commenced in 1672. John Macfie (1925 above) was of the opinion that the Clan Macfie had a demi lion and PRO REGE motto long before the Lord Lyon first made a grant of arms to his family (1864), and thus probably before 1672 too - but this may well be impossible to verify to-day.

With these Grants of Arms made to present members of the Clan, and by other members of these families matriculating from them, we are slowly but surely building up the number of armigerous members of our Clan who will, one day, be able to support the candidature of a Clan member in an approach to the Lyon Court for promulgation of a new Clan Chief.

1977 GATHERING OF THE CLANS

Where are all those starters for the May 1977 Gathering of The Clans in Scotland????? I know of a number who would 'like to go' or who are 'Maybe' starters, but what about some definite starters????? Information to Secretary, Helen McPhie, please so we can let you know of Clan contacts and arrangements etc.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Some 1976 fees are still outstanding - accounts enclosed for those concerned.

Some members have paid 1977 subscriptions already, thank you. For those others with a wish to get in early, or those of the above who wish to pay this year's and next year's sub in the one hit, dont forget that the 1977 membership subscription is \$3 per member. (Under 18 year olds are excused from payment).

And, new members joining from 1st November onwards will be required to pay \$3 per person and thus have membership paid up until the end of 1977.

CLAN TUNE

Society Piper, Donald MacPhie (V76459), has written a tune for our Clan - "The Clan Macfie Resurgence". I've heard Donald playing it, and its certainly a great and stirring piece of music.

Copies of the music are available from the Secretary - and Donald will have his pipes at the Melbourne dinner.....

HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL NOTES

The last of the early settlers on Historian Margaret Phoe's current list are :

'Arabian' From Liverpool for Portland Bay on 3rd June 1954	McPhoe	Flora	20
		Residence Herbista	
		Estate Lord Macdonald	
'Edward Johnstone' From Liverpool for Portland Bay on 17th June 1854	McPhoe	John	28
		Ann	21
	McPhoe	Ann	49
		Mary	24
		Donald	22
		Hugh	17
'Switzerland' From Liverpool for Adelaide on 16th June 1855	McPhoe	Margaret	50
		Norman	19
		Neil	14
		John	25
		Christy	23 (John's wife)
		Residence Roay Skye	
		Estate McLeod of McLeod	
	McPhoe	Malcolm	34
		Mary	32
		Lachlan	8
	John	3	
	Angus	Infant	
	Residence Orbost		
	Estate Orbost		
McPhoe	Murdo	50	
	Mary	45	
	Mary	25	
	Margaret	27	
	Neil	17	
	John	14	
	Mary	11	
	Rory	3	
	Residence Upper Millavey		
	Estate MacLeod of MacLeod		

I expect to be able to continue this series next year when Margaret has a chance to extract some more names. And it all raises a question as to who was the first Macfie in this country. Our Historians have been having a look at this aspect and have located a few pre-1800 arrivals. More details next time.....

Not the first, but surely the lonliest Macfie must be this poor fella mentioned in an article by Tom Weir in last December's Scots Magazine. It concerns an island called Mingulay some 6 miles south of Barra in the Outer Hebrides. The story is an incredible one which, unfortunately is not dated, but must have happened last century.

MacPhee, one of the boat crew sent by the MacNeil from Castlebay on Barra, was landed on Mingulay to find out why nothing had been heard from the tenants. He had a shock waiting for him. No one came to greet him as he came ashore, leaving the others in the boat, and on entering the crofts he found the same story in every one - Death. All had died of plague. No doubt MacPhee was too excited to wait until he got aboard the boat to tell his companions. They pushed off leaving him marooned when he called out the news, and dreading they would catch the disease from him and take it home to their families, they left him.

For a whole year MacPhee had to live as best he could. Day after day he climbed the highest hill on Mingulay - now known as MacPhee's Hill - on the look out for a boat. From the hill-top he could actually see the houses of Castlebay. His joy can be imagined when eventually the boat did come back. Nothing more is recorded about this poor man except that he was given land on Mingulay when it was resettled after that dreadful year.

For the family researchers : Many thanks to those who have forwarded historical notes and/or family trees - we are steadily building up quite an archives section. Please keep the items coming in - we can always seek help for Norah McPhee if she gets too snowed under with documents for sorting and recording.

At the Genealogical Library of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Greenwich, Sydney, one of the librarians has become a member of our Society - Mrs Maurine Cunningham (W76-214). Maurine, who of course was a McPhee, will be happy to advise members on research problems, and on the facilities available for research through the extensive micro film records of the Mormon Church. These records now cover virtually all official records from Scotland and can be made available to our members.

ON THE SOCIAL FRONT

Sydney Dinner on 8th October was attended by 44 members and guests. Seneschal Charles Macphee and I were both able to get up to it and certainly we had a most enjoyable time thanks to the arrangements made by NSW Vice-President Colin Macfie and wife, Joy. After the disappointment of missing the earlier dinner in Sydney I was especially pleased to be able to meet so many of their members for the first time. Colin tells me that costs for the night worked out square after including in the small profit carried forward from the previous dinner.

Another dinner is to be held in Sydney early next year. Colin is planning on two a year - however, the format may be changed next time.

New Year's Eve Party in Melbourne. Yes, we are having a New Years Eve Party in Melbourne this year. Hogmanay at Ross and Betty McPhee's (V75-107 & V76-155) home at 5 Wendover Court, Mt Waverley. (Phone 277-5274) 8:30/9:00 pm onwards. Members and their families - all ages - welcome.

Mention is made of the Melbourne Dinner on 25th November at the start of this Newsbulletin.

GENERAL NOTES

From the General Meeting We did eventually deliver the scarf and tie to raffle winner, Father Bernie McPhee (V75-118). The scarf costs \$6.50.

New Zealand Members We have two members of our Society in New Zealand. Would any members with relatives and friends in New Zealand, who might be eligible and interested in our Society, please notify details to the Secretary for follow up action.

The Haggis of Corporal McPhee The enclosed literary effort (in lighter vein) came from Earle in Vancouver, but I am sorry to say we haven't the poet's name. If you have difficulty understanding a Scot talking, or you have trouble reading their written word, you should try typing it out as I did with this epic....

For Sale Society Secretary, Helon McPhie, has available :

Copies of Dr E.D.MacPhee's Clan History - 2 volumes \$7.50 (post free)
Metal brooch Dreghorn Macfie strap and buckle badges \$2.00 (post free)

Last Newsbulletin's * Members In the list on new members at the end of the last Newsbulletin I marked a number of names with a * but forgot to indicate the meaning of the *. It was used to indicate members under the age of 18 years. I intend to continue to indicate them in this manner.

Newsbulletin Length This is the second six page Newsbulletin. I expect to drop back to the normal 4 page copy next time and maintain them at 4 pages, so please dont feel disappointed at the smaller content.

Our Early History (?) About the earliest historical item I have come across regarding our Clan deals with the arrival of the first Viking on Colonsay. The friendly Macfie Keesse went down to the beach to meet him and invited him home for a feed of haggis. Macfie was called away while the Viking settled down to the meal, and on his return Macfie asked his guest what he thought of the Number 1 tucker.

"OK" said the Viking, "but theres too many bones in it for my liking."

"Bones? Bones?" said the startled Macfie as he looked closer. Suddenly he stepped back aghast, "You fool," he said, "You've eaten my bagpipes!"

Congratulations and Best Wishes etc To Heather Cork (N75-099) of North Dorrigo on the birth of a son.....To Jeffrey McPhee (Q74-046) of Brisbane on his recent marriage.....and Best Wishes to Neil McPhee (V74-017) of Melbourne who is about to retire as Chief Executive of the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria. Neil took on this Chief Exec job in 1953 and has managed the tremendous expansion of the Club in the years since. Neil is one of the Society Trustees, and will be retiring to his delightful country home Toddaidh Mor at Point Lee on the Mornington Peninsula.

Christmas Wishes Its that time again - end of a busy year (with the Air Force as well as with the Society), and one that has passed so very quickly. My thanks to all who have helped and supported me through this year of great expansion and progress in our affairs. My best wishes to all members and their families for a happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

AND

by way of a rare and valuable piece of information at this time I am able to give you, at no extra expense, the recipe for Atholbrose -

Take one sheep's pluck....No, sorry, thats the start of the haggis one -

Take one bottle of whuskey, 3 oz of coarse oatmeal, and mix them together in a suitable container - a 1lb coffee jar is ideal - let them soak together for anything from 48 hours to 2 weeks, and stir the brew frequently.

Then take 3oz of honey and stand it in hot water to thin out a little. While this is happening strain the whiskey and oatmeal mixture through a muslin bag and blend in the honey.

On the night before, or on the morning of, the evening you require the Atholbrose add a quarter pint of cream, mix it in, and refrigerate it pending use.

As they say - On a raw bright night this heady brew can be decanted for the delectation of self and guests.....Its normally served in small sherry glasses, as it is a potent brew. Left overs will keep well in the Fridge. The leftover Oatmeal? Well you could make Oat cakes from it, but I dont think they should be given to the children, and the oatmeal itself shouldn't be tossed out for the birds to eat either...

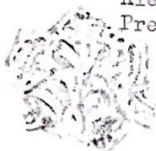
I believe the statement that Scots make Atholbrose because it is the only known way of turning one bottle of whuskey into two, is incorrect.

Membership Numbers We're well over the 200 mark now, and if last Septembers figures are any indication, still expanding rapidly. The list of new members since last Newsbulletin is on the back of this sheet.

Until next year -

Alex McPhee

Alex McPhee
President



NEW MEMBERS

V76-198	Miss Fiona McPhee	385 Blackburn Rd	East Burwood	Vic	3151
N76-199	Norman McPhee	91 Marslett Cres	Kogarah Bay	NSW	2217
V76-200	Dene Rutledge	7 Glentilt Rd	Gardiner	Vic	3146
V76-201	Mrs Ailsa Rankine	PO Box 77	Malanda	Qld	4885
Z76-202	John McPhee	23 Lynn St	Dunedin	NZ	
Q76-203*	Miss Sally McPhee	43 Taylor St	Toowoomba	Qld	4350
N76-204*	Andrew Fischer	Chatsworth Island	Clarence River	NSW	2460
N76-205*	Miss Rachelle Fischer	" "	" "	" "	" "
V76-206	John McPhee	45 Lincoln Ave	Glen Waverley	Vic	3150
W76-207*	Miss Tanya McPhee	2 Beck Place	Warwick	WA	6024
W76-208*	Scott McPhee	" "	" "	" "	" "
V76-209	Dr Arthur McHaffie	72 Iona St	Black Rock	Vic	3193
V76-210	Mrs Anne McHaffie	" "	" "	" "	" "
V76-211	Father Matthew McPhee	Cnr Morak Rd & Verona St	Vernont	Vic	3133
V76-212	David Grove	19 Sylvia St	Blacktown	NSW	2148
N76-213	Mrs Joan McPhee	Elgin RMB160	Ullmarra	NSW	2462
N76-214	Mrs Maurine Cunningham	61 Epping Dr	French's Forest	NSW	2086
N76-215	Mrs Flora Barnes	70 Clement St	Russell Lea	NSW	2046
N76-216	Mrs Catherine Leeson	7 Robert St	Ashfield	NSW	2131
N76-217	Mrs Zillah Blackwood	3 Valley Rd	Forestville	NSW	2087
V76-218	Mrs J.B.O'Sullivan	20 Shady Grove	Munawading	Vic	3131
A76-219	Mrs M.M.Gartland	14 Dawson St	Curtin	ACT	2605
Q76-220*	Robert McPhee	43 Taylor St	Toowoomba	Qld	4350

THE HAGGIS OF PRIVATE MCPHEE

"Hae ye heard whit ma auld mither's postit tae me?
It fair makes me hanesick," says Private McPhee.
"And whit did she send 'ye?" says Private McPhun,
As he cockit his rifle and bleezed at a Hun.
"A haggis! A Haggis!" says Private McPhee,
"The brawest big haggis I ever did see.
And think! its the morn when fond memory turns
Tae haggis and whuskey - the Birthday o' Burns.
We maun find a dram; then we'll ca' in the rest
O' the lads, and we'll hae a Burns' Nicht wi' the best."
"Be ready at sundoon," snapped Sergeant McCole;
"I want you two men for the List'nin' Patrol."
Then Private McPhee looked at Private McPhun:
"I'm thinkin', ma lad, we're confoundedly done."
Then Private McPhun looked at Private McPhee:
"I'm thinkin' auld chap, it's a' aff wi' oor spree."
But up spoke their crony, wee Wullie McNair:
"Jist lea' yer braw haggis for me tae prepare;
And as for the dram, if I search the camp roun',
We maun hae a drappie tae jist haud it doon.
Sae rin, lads, and think, though the nicht it be black,
O' the haggis that's waitin' ye when ye get back."
My! but it wis waesome on Naebuddy's Land,
And the deid they were rottin' on every hand.
And the rockets like corpse candles haunit the sky,
And the winds o' destruction went shudderin' by.
There wis skelpin' o' bullets and skirlin' o' shells,
And breenigin' o' bombs and a thoosand death-knells;
But cooryin' doon in a Jack Johnson hole
Little fashed the twa men o' the List'nin' Patrol.
For sweeter than honey and bricht as a gem
Wis the thoct o' the haggis that waitit for them.
Yet alas! in oor moments o' sunniest cheer
Calanity's aften maist cruolly near,
And while the twa talked o' their puddin' devine
The Boches below them were howkin' a mine.
And while the twa cracked o' the feast they would hae,
The fuse it was burnin' and burnin' away.
Then sudden a roar like the thunner o' doom,
A hell-leap o' flame.....then the wheest o' the tomb.
"Haw, Jock! Are ye hurtit?" says Private McPhun.
"Ay, Geordie, they've got me; I'm fearin' I'm done.
It's ma leg; I'm jist thinkin' it's aff at the knee;
Ye'd best gang and leave me," says Private McPhee.
"Oh leave ye I wanna," says Private McPhun;
"And leave ye I cana, for though I nicht run,
It's no faur I wud gang, it's no muckle I'd see;
I'm blindit, and that's whit's the matter wi' me."
Then Private McPhee sadly shakit his heid;
"If we bide here for lang, we'll be bidin' for deid.
And yet, Geordie lad, I could gang weel content
If I'd tasted that haggis ma auld mither sent."
"That's droll," says McPhun; "ye've jist speakit ma mind.
Oh I ken it's a terrible thing tae be blind;
And yet it's no that that embitters ma lot -
It's missin' that braw muckle haggis ye've got."
For a while they were silent; then up once again
Spoke Private McPhee, though he whussilt wi' pain:
"And why should we miss it? Between you and me
We've legs for tae run, and we've eyes for tae see.
You lend me your shanks and I'll lend you ma sicht,
And we'll baith hae a kyte-fu' o' haggis the nicht."

Oh the sky it wis dourlike and dreepin' a wee,
 When Private McPhun gruppit Private McPhee.
 Oh the glaur it wis fylin' and crieshin' the grun',
 When Private McPhee guidit Private McPhun.
 "Keep clear o' then corpses - they're maybe no deid!
 Haud on! There's a big muckle crater ahead.
 Look oot! There's a sap; we'll be haein' a coup.
 A staur-shell! For Godsake! Doun, lad, on yer daup.
 Bear aff tae yer richt....Aw yer jist daein' fine:
 Before the nicht's feenished on haggis we'll dine."

There wis death and destruction on every hand;
 There wis havoc and horror on Naebuddy's Land.
 And the shells bickered doun wi' a crump and a glare,
 And the hameless wee bullets were dingin' the air.
 Yet on they went staggerin', cooryin' doun
 When the stutter and cluck o' a Maxim crept roun'.
 And the legs o' McPhun they were sturdy and stoot,
 And McPhee on his back kept a bonnie look-oot.
 "On, on, ma brave lad! We're no faur frae the goal;
 I can hear the braw sweerin' o' Sergeant McCole."

But strength has its leenit, and Private McPhun,
 Wi' a sab and a curse fell his length on the grun'.
 Then Private McPhee shoutit doon in his ear:
 "Jist think o' the haggis! I smell it from here.
 It's gushin' wi' juice, it's embaumin' the air;
 It's steamin' for us, and we're - jist - aboot - there."
 Then Private McPhun answers: "Dommit, auld chap!
 For the sake o' that haggis I'll gang till I drap."
 And he gets on his feet wi' a heave and a strain,
 And onwards he staggers in passion and pain.
 And the flare and the glare and the fury increase,
 Till you'd think they'd jist taken a' hell on a lease.
 And on they go reelin' in peetifu' plight,
 And someone is shoutin' away on their right;
 And someone is runnin', and noo they can hear
 A sound like a prayer and a sound like a cheer;
 And swift through the crash and the flash and the din,
 The lads o' the Hiellands are bringin' them in.

"They're baith sairly woundit, but is it no droll
 Hoo they rave aboot haggis?" says Sergeant McCole.
 When hirplin alang comes wee Wullie McNair,
 And they a' wonnert why he wis greetin' sae sair.
 And he says: "I'd jist liftit it oot o' the pot,
 And there it lay steamin' and savoury hot,
 When sudden I dooked at the fleech o' a shell,
 And it - drapped on the haggis and dinged it tae hell."

And oh but the lads were fair taken aback;
 Then sudden the order wis passed tae attack,
 And up from the trenches like lions they leapt,
 And on through the nicht like a torrent they swept.
 On, on, wi' their bayonets thirstin' before!
 On, on, tae the foe wi' a rush and a roar!
 And wild to the welkin their battle-cry rang,
 And doon on the Boches like tigers they sprang:
 And there wisna a man but had death in his ee,
 For he thocht o' the haggis o' Private McPhee.