

THE MACFIE CLAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

NEWSBULLETIN No 9.

23rd JANUARY 1976

President: Sqn Ldr Alex McPhee, 8 Floreat Crt, Glen Waverley V 3150
Vice-President: A.L.(Sandy) McPhee, 47 Bellamy St, Pennant Hills NSW 2120
NSW V-President: Colin Macfie, 31 Hendy Ave, Collaroy NSW 2097
Vic V-President: Bruce McPhee, 29 Camelot Dr., Glen Waverley V 3150
Treasurer: Ross McPhee, 5 Wendover Crt, Mt Waverley V 3149
Secretary: (Mrs) Helen McPhee, 8 Floreat Crt, Glen Waverley V 3150
Telephone - Melbourne 232-6640
Historians: (Mrs) Margaret Phee, 12 Pitt Rd, North Curl Curl NSW 2099
(Mrs) Norah McPhee, 47 Bellamy St, Pennant Hills NSW 2120

APPOINTMENT OF A CLAN SENESCHAL IN AUSTRALIA

At the first meeting of the Society Executive it was unanimously decided that a Clan Seneschal in Australia should be appointed. Such an appointment is provided for under paragraph 8 of the constitution which states in two notes to the paragraph :

- i When there is no Clan Chieftain resident in Australia the Society Executive may appoint a Seneschal to act in place of the Chieftain. Such appointment is to be for a two year period which may be extended, as required, by the Society Executive.
- ii The duties and responsibilities of the Seneschal are to act as Clan Custodian in Australia; to guard the Mythology, Traditions, History and Perquisites of the Clan within Australia, until such time as a Chieftain, resident in Australia, is appointed.

It will be noted that the Seneschal's duties and responsibilities refer to the Clan as a whole, rather than the Clan Society, and such an appointment can only be made when there is not a resident Clan Chieftain in Australia. Therefore, the Society Executive considers the Clan Seneschal to be the titular head of the Clan in Australia.

The Executive has appointed Charles R. Macphee of 717 Burwood Highway, Ferntree Gully, Vic, 3156, as Seneschal for 1976/77. Charles was one of the originals who started this Society in May 1974, he is a retired marine engineer, aged 73; he lives in retirement with his daughter Kaye, having moved to Victoria from Sydney in 1974. His son Ian is the Federal member for Balaclava. Charles is well versed in Clan - and Scottish - matters and has visited Colonsay on several occasions; I am sure our Society will benefit from his appointment. A brief message from our brand new Seneschal follows :

"Fellow Macfies,

The Executive of our Society have seen fit to appoint me as Seneschal of the Clan in Australia, and I take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the great honour thus conferred. I hope that I may be able to make some small contribution to the furtherance of our Clan interests in Australia and with contacts overseas.

Thanks to the dedication and perseverance of our President, often, I regret to say, in the face of apathy and frustration, our Society has now the largest membership of any Macfie Society in the world. However, membership is not enough to create and maintain a worthwhile society, it requires the ACTIVE participation of all members in the affairs of the Society.

Let us all resolve that during 1976, and beyond, we will actively support our President and State Vice Presidents in their efforts to advance Clan interests and particularly gatherings arranged for our enjoyment and thus consolidate and expand our Society for the benefit of members and the honour of our ancient Clan.

A Guid New Year to All,

(signed) Charles Macphee"

FIRST BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING AND SOCIETY
SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

See next page for Functions in QLD, NSW & VIC during February & April....

BRISBANE - SATURDAY 14 FEB 76 There will be an informal evening gathering at the home of Mr and Mrs H.W. Moore, 5 Winking St, Fig Tree Pocket, from 8 pm onwards on Saturday 14th February 1976. This will be the first function held in Queensland and a big roll up of members, friends, and prospective members is hoped for. President Alex McPhie and wife Helen (who doubles as Society Secretary) will be attending. Ladies are asked to bring something for supper while the gentlemen could bring what ever refreshment they prefer. Tea, members are invited to bring any old family records, relics, heirlooms etc they have for display, and ideas for future development of the Society will be discussed during the evening. Further information may be obtained from Mrs Estelle Moore on 378-8932 or John McPhee on 370-7710 (home) 221-7046 (office) to whom notice of intention to attend should be given.

SYDNEY - FRIDAY 20 FEB 76 A Society dinner (smorgasbord) will be held at The Associated Schools Club, 70 Pitt St., Sydney, on Friday 20th February 1976. NSW Vice President Colin Macfie will be there from 5pm onwards to receive guests, dinner will commence about 6.45pm.... Dress - lounge suit. Clan Seneschal Charles Macphee and Society President Alex McPhie and wife Helen (Secretary) will be attending. Colin will be contacting NSW members with complete details - or you could ring Colin (or wife Joy) on 98-0729 for information.

GENERAL MEETING & ASSOCIATED FUNCTIONS The First Biennial General Meeting of The Macfie Clan Society of Australia is to be held in Melbourne on the afternoon of Saturday 3rd April 1976. Special arrangements have been made for members to join the Dinner Dance that evening in the Outrigger Restaurant at Noah's Palm Lake Motor Inn. On Sunday 4th April there will be a family gathering at the home of Mr and Mrs Neil McPhee at Point Leo. A separate notice re the week-end is enclosed - interstate visitors will be most welcome and your Society Secretary can arrange accommodation, and transport to Point Leo, for those who require it.

A second notice regarding this week end, giving more precise details as to the General Meeting agenda and how to find Neil's place at Point Leo will be mailed during March to all Victorian members and interstate members who indicate they will be attending.

GENERAL MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Members wishing to submit agenda items for the General Meeting may do so by forwarding such items in writing to reach the Secretary by Friday 12th March 1976.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

At the first meeting of the Society Executive it was unanimously agreed that Honorary Membership of The Macfie Clan Society of Australia should be extended to Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee of Vancouver in recognition of his never ceasing work on behalf of the Clan. In accepting this distinction Dr Earle wrote :

"I am very proud and happy to be granted Honorary Membership in The Macfie Clan Society of Australia...the important thing to me is that, within my lifetime, members of the Clan have begun to feel that they are part of the Clan.

Our Clan were very humble folk. For this reason they did not enter the game of inter-tribal battles, save as followers. It is true that within the last 50 or 100 years our people have begun to lead others in fields other than war. It now behoves us to encourage the young members of our Clan to fit themselves for leadership in 'whatsoever things are of good report'."

The three provincial MacPhee Clan Societies in Canada have formed a national body, and one of its first acts was to appoint Dr Earle as Clan Seneschal in Canada.

SOCIETY EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

You will no doubt remember from the last Newsbulletin (if you could read it) that we were inundated with nominations for the various positions on the Society Executive, and that the three characters who did nominate were promptly declared elected. Wee the three quickly called a meeting via the letter box and added to their number by appointing Charles Macphee as Clan Seneschal in Australia, Ross McPhee to fill the vacant Treasurer slot, and Bruce McPhie as Victorian Vice President. They also confirmed the tasks of our three hard working girls - Helen McPhie, Secretary, and Norah McPhee and

Margaret Thee, Historians.

Other decisions taken by the Executive were:

- (1) That a Trust Fund would be established to provide a financial reserve whereby assistance may be offered to needy members of the Clan should the occasion so arise.
- (2) That membership of our Society be extended to Clan members living in New Zealand pending the formation of a Pacific Clan Society over there.
- (3) That new membership subscriptions paid on or after 1st November in any year are to be credited as the subscription for the ensuing year.

Details of decisions regarding Society finances follow :

A CALL FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members will have noticed that the account attached to this Newsbulletin contains two new requests for financial support. Later in the Newsbulletin a copy of the 1975 Balance Sheet may be found - it discloses a loss for the year of \$52.23 (brought about by the fact that 5 Newsbulletins were sent out during the year instead of the usual 4, and that a draft constitution was submitted to members and provision was made for pre-paying return postage on voting papers.). - Thank goodness we didn't have to finance a ballot for the election of office bearers -

The Executive have discussed the financial problem at length and are unanimous in agreeing that any significant increase in membership fees is to be used only as a last resort. They are adamant that annual subscriptions must be kept within the scope of all members' finances. However, Society finances must be put on a more sound footing than they are at present, and, as mentioned earlier, the Executive wish to establish a Trust Fund to assist Clan members in need. Thus, with the idea that those members who are better off financially may wish to help, the following decisions have been made by the Executive :

- (1) The 1976 annual subscription remains at \$2 per member.
- (2) The 1977 annual subscription will be \$3 per member.
- (3) A Voluntary Levy (if we can call it that) of \$3 is placed on all members for the Trust Fund. While it is realised that some may not be able to afford this amount, we ask all of you to earnestly consider it.
- (4) All members are asked to pay a Voluntary Donation of up to \$5 towards the Society's general funds. For those who can afford it we assure you that your donation will be well utilised; if you are unable to afford it we assure you that your annual subscription will cover your membership obligation in this regard.

I stress again that the Trust Fund Levy and the General Fund Donation are both voluntary and are not intended to bring any financial hardship to any member.

GENEALOGICAL NOTES

From Margaret Thee comes the following details of migrant families who arrived in Australia in 1852. -

"Araninta" from Liverpool for Geelong arriving 20th June 1852	Archibald McThee	30	Residence -
	Anne (wife)	35	Peaull
	Anne	8	Estate -
	Catherine	4	McDonald
	William	2	
"Harrior" from Liverpool for Herston Bay arriving 28th August 1852	Donald McFee of McPhoe	50	Residence -
	Mary	50	Reintia
	Neil	38	Hector
	Mary	24	Catherine
	Angus	19	Margaret
	Flora	11	Duke of Argyll
"Harrior" as above	Duncan McPhoe	27	Residence - Estate of Mr Sinclair Lochalin.

"Allison"
from Liverpool for Melbourne
arriving on 13th September 1852

Catherine McPhee	51	Residence:
John	30	Canischarick
Alexander	26	Estate:
William	18	Sir James Riddle
Mary	22	Ardnamninan
Ann (may have died)	11 mths	
Donald	15	
Duncan	9	
Accompanied by Elizabeth Main 21		

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE 1975

Income

Members Subscriptions (\$270 less \$38 for '76 subs paid in advance)	232.00
Donations	10.05
Bank Interest	1.10
Pre-paid stamp duty	.07
	<u>243.22</u>

Expenditure

Newsbulletins	172.65
Postage (excluding Newsbulletins)	44.83
Printing & Stationery (excluding Newsbulletins)	19.10
Draft Constitutions (including return postage)	43.59
Telephone	13.58
Sundries	1.70
	<u>295.45</u>

Which gives a Nett Loss for the year of

\$52.23

GENERAL NOTES

- * In May 1977 there will be an International Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh. Its the first in 24 years - more details next Newsbulletin.
- * Apologies for the poor printing in the last Newsbulletin - we had problems and in the end it was a case of sending it as it was or not sending anything.
- * Congratulations to Hector and Nellie McPhee of Toowoomba who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on 17th February - and to our Federal Member Ian MacPhee of Brighton Vic who retained the Balaclava seat at the recent elections.
- * Names and Addresses of prospective members in Australia and New Zealand are required by our Secretary as well as names and addresses of likely members in Scotland for their embryo Society.
- * Calendar

Adelaide Highland Games	06/07 March
Geelong Highland Gathering	14 March
Ringwood Vic. Highland Gathering	21 March
Hobart "Edinburgh" Tattoo	20/31 March
Newcastle NSW Highland Games	01/02 May
Macfie Clan Society General Meeting etc	03/04 April (in Melbourne)
- * Christmas Parties in Sydney and Melbourne went off quite well, though the attendance could have been better. Many thanks to the members who made their homes available and organised the functions.
- * Membership Numbers Membership now stands at 146, with new members listed below. A full list of members numbers (to 8th Jan 76) is enclosed.

With best wishes for a prosperous 1976

Alex McPhee
Alex McPhee
President

New Members

F75-142 Miss Lilian MacPhee	2/4 Western Road	Castle Hill NSW	2154
N75-143 Miss Catherine MacPhee	2/4 Western Road	Castle Hill NSW	2154
N75-144 Miss Margaret Jean MacPhee	2/4 Western Road	Castle Hill NSW	2154
V75-145 Malcolm Craig McPhee	Boorool Road	Mirboo North VIC	3871
A76-146 Mrs R. (Gail) Henderson	Basodow St	Torrens ACT	2607
V76-147 Miss Bessie May McPhee	5/16 Seddon St	Ivanhoe VIC	3079